

Nevada Department of Agriculture News Release

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**For Immediate Release
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Sparks, NV - 05/25/2011 - The Nevada Department of Agriculture is reporting the two additional laboratory confirmed case of Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV-1) in Nevada resident horses. The two horses are located in Washoe County and were exposed to two horses that attended the 2011 National Cutting Horse Association Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah earlier this month. The event horses did not develop disease. The two cohorts exhibit neurological symptoms. This brings the number of affected horses up to three.

Equine Herpes Virus -1 is a potentially highly pathogenic and wide spread infection in horses. It is not infectious for humans. The incubation period for this disease is between 1 and 10 days (rarely up to 14 days), with the majority of horses showing clinical symptoms 3 to 6 days post infection. The majority of horses have been infected by 2 years of age resulting in life long latent carrier status with intermittent viral shedding during periods of stress.

Current recommendations suggest that horses should be isolated for 14 days after known exposure. If horses return to their home premise and expose other horses on site all horses should be stabled for 14 days after the exposed horse returned to the barn. Testing of horses without a history of exposure or without clinical signs is not recommended.

The observation period for horses attending the Ogden, UT event expired no later than Sunday, May 22nd. All cohorts of those animals will be under observation until no later than Sunday, June 5th. Observation periods will vary by premise based on when the exposed horse(s) returned home.

Known infected horses will be subject to quarantine for 28 days after the positive specimen was taken.

Outbreaks of EHV-1 will be monitored on a state and national level. A summary of the events will be distributed by USDA every Friday for the duration of the event and will be displayed at our website (agri.state.nv.us).

However, it is important to consider that exposure to and infection with EHV-1 is a reality in horse ownership. This event presents an opportunity to horse owners and event organizers to review and update bio safety practices.