

Nevada Department of Agriculture NEWS RELEASE



**For Immediate Release
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Sparks, NV - 05/24/2011 - The Nevada Department of Agriculture is reporting the 1st laboratory confirmed case of Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV-1) in a Nevada resident horse. The horse is located in Elko County and attended the 2011 National Cutting Horse Association Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah earlier this month. The horse contracted the mild form of the disease and is expected to make a full recovery.

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, with the majority of horses showing clinical symptoms 3 to 6 days post infection. Infection with this virus often results in the development of a latent carrier status with intermittent viral shedding during periods of stress in the carrier horse's life. Symptoms after infection can be very mild, such as a transient fever or a mild respiratory disease or can be significant and cause fetal death and abortions, death in new borne foals as well as very serious neurological disease and death. Because so many horses are latently infected with the virus it is constantly cycling in the horse population and very hard to control. Currently available vaccines do not provide protection against the neurological form of the disease; and environmental and genetic factors influence the outcome of an infection in the individual horse.

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.

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. However, it is important to consider that exposure to and infection with EHV-1 is a reality in horse ownership.

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