

Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) Summary Information Sheet

EHV causes four clinical syndromes:

- 1) Respiratory
- 2) Abortion
- 3) Neonatal foal death
- 4) Neurological disease – Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) may or may not be related to previous or on-going respiratory disease

Respiratory Disease: What to look out for

- Fever
- Coughing
- Nasal Discharge

Neurological Disease: What to look out for

- Incoordination of the hind (and occasionally fore) limbs
- Urine retention/dribbling - can present as mild colic
- Bladder weakness
- Recumbency (inability to rise)
- Neurological signs may be preceded by fever and respiratory signs.

Transmission: How is the disease spread?

- Aerosol – most common route. Inhalation of droplets from coughing and snorting
 - Shedding can last typically 7-10 days but can persist much longer
 - Therefore a 28-day isolation period is recommended after diagnosis
- Indirect Transmission – Fomites
 - Virus can be live in the environment for a couple of weeks.
 - Fomites (e.g. people, tack, yard equipment) can pass the virus between horses.

Incubation Time:

- May be as short as 24hrs but typically 4-6 days but *can be longer*

Prevention:

- **Maximum Biosecurity (See advice Sheet)**
- Seek veterinary attention immediately if disease is suspected.
- **Vaccination policy.** Take advice from your own Veterinary Surgeon.
 - Vaccination decreases nasal shedding of virus and therefore decreases the total amount of virus in the environment. It helps to reduce risk and is valuable.
 - Vaccination does not prevent EHV1 Neurological disease.
 - Vaccination of animals known or suspected to have recently been in contact with EHV- 1 is not recommended
- Stress reduction by avoiding physiological stress: maintain social structures, avoid prolonged transport, relocation, environmental exposure.
- Disinfect and destroy bedding; clean and disinfect premises, equipment and vehicles used for horse transport.
- STOP all movements on and off the premises for at least 28 days in case of infection.