

Equine Herpesvirus (EHV)



What it is –

- Equine Herpes Virus is a common virus in equine populations worldwide.
- There are several strains of the virus, with EHV-1 and EHV-4 being most often involved in clinical disease.
- EHV-1 can cause respiratory disease, abortion and neurologic disease.
- The neurologic disease is sometimes referred to as Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM).
- Although EHV-1 is highly contagious among horses, it does not pose a threat to human health.

Symptoms and transmission –

- The symptoms in horses may include a fever, nasal discharge, wobbly gait, hind-end weakness, dribbling of urine and diminished tail tone.
- The virus is easily spread by airborne transmission, horse-to-horse contact and by contact with nasal secretions on equipment, tack, feed and other surfaces.
- Caretakers can spread the virus to horses if their hands, clothing, shoes or vehicles are contaminated.
- Respiratory or neurologic disease caused by EHV may be exhibited when horses are transported, commingled, or otherwise stressed.
- Vaccination and biosecurity are two preventative measures that horse owners should consider in consultation with their veterinarian.

Additional Resources:

[USDA APHIS – Equine Herpesvirus](#)

[AAEP Equine Herpesvirus \(EHV-1 & EHV-4\)](#)