



EAGLE FERN EQUINE HOSPITAL

Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) Information

EHV-1 is a common viral infection of horses that is highly contagious. Horse-to-horse contact, contaminated hands, equipment, tack, feed, and aerosol transmission all play a role in its spread. Symptoms can range from acute fever to mild upper respiratory disease or abortions. In a small percentage of horses it can cause neurologic disease (weakness, ataxia, loss of balance, inability to urinate or defecate, and recumbency). The highly contagious nature of this disease makes isolation and quarantine of exposed horses critical for containment. There is no proven therapy that is effective against the neuropathogenic strain of EHV-1. No vaccination is proven effective at preventing this neurologic strain.

EHV-1 does **NOT** affect humans, dogs, cats, cattle, sheep, goats, pigs or birds; although llamas and alpacas (camelids) can be affected.

Anyone that has concerns about exposure of their horse should use the following guidelines:

- Segregate potentially exposed horses from any non exposed horses by at least 50 feet. The exposed horse should not have direct contact with other horses for 3 weeks. Stall cleaning and husbandry practices should be separate for the potentially exposed horses.
- Take your horses temperature rectally twice a day for 14 days. If the temperature is over 102°F please contact us immediately.
- The preferred testing method is PCR analysis performed on a nasal swab. This is only effective to identify horses that are actively shedding the virus.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this matter please feel free to contact us at **503-630-4558**. We will continue to post updates on this situation as it develops.

Additional information about the EHV-1 virus can be found at the following links:

- Oregon Veterinary Medical Association
<http://oregonvma.org/resources/confirmed-ehm-case-oregon>
- A Guide To Understanding the Neurologic Form of EHV Infection
http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/equine_herpesvirus_brochure_2009.pdf
- USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Resources
<http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/ehv/>
- American Assoc. of Equine Practitioners Fact Sheet
http://www.aaep.org/pdfs/control_guidelines/Equine%20Herpes%20Virus.pdf
- National Cutting Horse Association
<http://www.nhacutting.com>