

Some Guidelines for Transporting Equine

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Did you know when you transport an equine it should have a Coggins test, possibly a health paper and be inspected by the brand inspector? When a horse is transported to a rodeo, show, sale or trail ride all states require that an equine has a Coggins test. This test must accompany the equine when being moved off the property in which the animal resides. Some states require a one year current Coggins for transport to rodeos, shows, recreational purposes (i.e. trail riding) and sales but some states require a 6 month Coggins for transport regardless if the animal is traveling to a show or sale. If you are buying or selling a horse, mule, donkey, or pony at a public auction you may need a 6 month negative Coggins test depending on the state where the auction is being held. For example, the state of Tennessee requires all horses being sold at an auction to have a 6 month negative Coggins.

The Coggins test is a test used to detect equine that are infected with the Equine Infectious Anemia Virus. There are two methods of testing for this infectious disease either by the “Coggins test” which takes 24 hours for the results or by an ELISA test which normally takes close to an hour. This form of testing is some times available at auctions for equine without documentation showing the horse is negative. It is important to keep in mind that when testing for EIAv false positives have occasionally been associated with ELISA testing. For more information on health regulations when transporting horses, mules, donkeys, or ponies, be sure and contact the state(s) you are traveling to and or the event you are attending for specific health rules and regulations.

Some states may have specific health requirements or permits, or require brand papers (such as Wyoming, Colorado, etc.) especially when traveling in this part of the U.S. Most states will have inspection stations for you to stop at when entering the state to check your documents and states such as Wyoming will have brand inspectors. Equine crossing county lines in Wyoming should have appropriate paperwork from the brand inspector. When equine are being shipped across state lines a 30 day health certificate is required to ensure that the animal is healthy. For more information about state to state health requirements when transporting equine you can check out the following website and also make sure and contact the state’s department of agricultural directly, http://www.tripswithhorses.com/state_horses_transportation_requirement.shtml.

For equine traveling internationally such as to Canada a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) health certificate must accompany the equine, which can only be obtained from a USDA certified veterinarian. International shipping regulations can also vary. Make sure you are aware of all quarantine and health rules and regulations for the country in which you are purchasing your new equine or sending your equine too.

If you are considering purchasing a new equine, one consideration would be to have new blood drawn for a more recent Coggins test, as well as considering a pre-purchase exam that can be done by a veterinarian. For more information about testing for Equine Infections Anemia virus go to http://www.aaep.org/health_articles_view.php?id=139.

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