



Equine Herpesvirus-1

BACKGROUND

EHV-1 is a highly contagious and potentially fatal equine herpesvirus that can cause respiratory illness, abortion in pregnant mares, and a severe neurological condition called Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM). It spreads through direct contact, airborne particles, or contaminated equipment, and infected horses can remain carriers throughout their lives. The neurological form, EHM, is often severe and can lead to incoordination, weakness, and even death.

- If you suspect EHV-1, contact a veterinarian immediately.
- Implement biosecurity measures to prevent the spread.
- Isolate infected horses and prevent the movement of exposed horses.
- Avoid sharing equipment, water, or feed between horses.
- Vaccination can help increase immunity but may not prevent EHM.

CLINICAL SYMPTOMS

- EHV-1 can cause an array of symptoms from respiratory to neurologic distress and include coughing, nasal discharge, fever, lethargy, and hind-end ataxia.
- Abortion can be seen in pregnant mares.
- Neurologic symptoms associated with EHV-1 are commonly referred to as EHM.

SAMPLES




- Sample types
 - A whole blood sample in a purple top tube (PTT) and a nasal swab should both be submitted for complete results.
 - Samples must be collected at the same time and early in the disease course for best results.
 - The total cost to run both samples for EHV-1 via PCR for an acute diagnosis is \$90.00.
 - Wooden shafted, cotton-tipped swabs, or those suspended in bacterial culture media can inhibit PCR testing; do not use.
 - Send fetal tissues and/or placenta for abortion cases.
- Shipping
 - Keep samples cold and ship overnight to WSVL.

TESTING

We use a real-time polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test to detect the presence of Equine Herpesvirus-1 viral nucleic acid in an acute infection. A serum neutralization (SN) test is also available to look for the presence and titer of antibodies.

PCR testing is routinely performed on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, but additional testing days may be added at the lab's discretion for faster results during an outbreak.

All positive EHV-1 cases are communicated to the state veterinarian and Wyoming Livestock Board.

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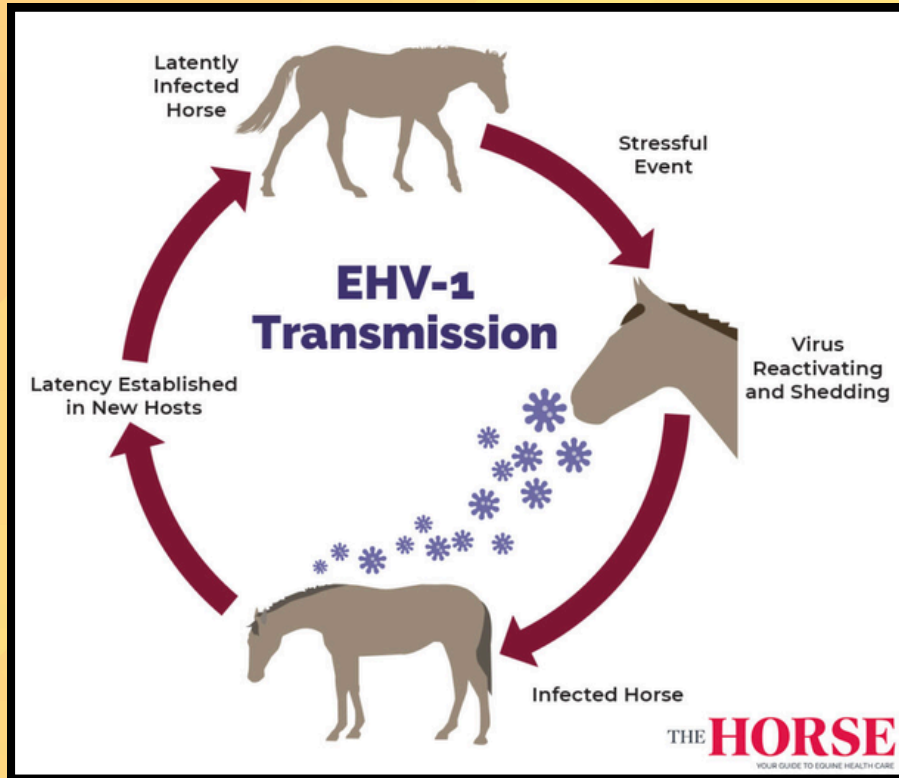
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BIOSECURITY AND BIOSAFETY

- Isolate new animals moving to the property or those that have been at competitions or shows.
- Wash your hands and change any gloves or other PPE used after handling sick horses.
- EHV-1 is readily spread by contaminated hands, clothing, equipment, tack, water buckets, and trailers. Do not share tack or tools between horses and practice strict equipment disinfection to prevent fomite transmission.

TRANSMISSION

- Equine Herpesvirus-1 is a highly contagious virus with transmission possible from horse to horse primarily via respiratory secretions, within a contaminated environment, or even human to horse when proper cleanliness and biosecurity are not used when interacting with multiple horses at a location or traveling from one horse premise to another.



CLINICAL SIGNS OF EHV-1		
RESPIRATORY	Fever, cough, runny nose, lack of appetite, lethargy, vasculitis (inflammation of blood vessels)	
ABORTION	In pregnant mares, spontaneous abortion; in infected foals, weakness and severe respiratory signs resulting in death	
NEUROLOGIC	Fever, weakness, ataxia, urine dribbling, reduced tail tone, dog sitting, recumbency	

