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Handling Equine Herpes Virus Cases and Suspects

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Multiple horses from Texas and Oklahoma have been confirmed positive for equine herpesvirus Type 1 after participating rodeo in events in Waco, TX and Guthrie, OK. Hoosier owners of horses that may have been exposed at either event need to monitor their animals closely.

Equine herpes virus (EHV-1) was identified earlier this week in a Texas quarter horse that attended the 2025 Womens Professional Rodeo Association World Final and Elite Barrel Race event (Nov. 5-9) in [Waco, Texas](#).

Two additional cases surfaced this week in [Oklahoma](#) during the Barrel Futurities of America World championship in Guthrie, OK. Both horses were previously at the Waco, TX event.

Reporting and Response

As a reminder: **EHV-1 diagnosed in a horse with neurologic signs is referred to as EHM** (equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy), which is **reportable to the Indiana State Board of Animal Health**.

(<https://www.in.gov/boah/boah-rules/compliance-issues/reportable-disease-list/>)

When a veterinarian receives a positive laboratory result for EHV-1 on a horse showing neurologic signs, he/she will contact BOAH. The BOAH district veterinarian will help manage the situation to lessen spread of the disease.

BOAH's director of equine health is currently attempting to contact Hoosiers who are listed as participants at the affected events, based on traceback information provided by the Oklahoma state veterinarian. Potentially exposed horses will undergo the observation protocol to prevent spread of the virus in Indiana.

Exercise Caution

BOAH's equine director is reaching out to Hoosiers who are listed on the event rosters to arrange for monitoring of potentially exposed horses.

BOAH's goal is to avoid the widespread cases of EHV-1/EHM that we have seen around the country. An important step is for horse owners to respect a self-imposed quarantine on clinical horses until the laboratory test results are returned, and comply with BOAH restrictions if an official quarantine must be imposed.

Restricting movement and contact with others can greatly deter spread of this disease.

About EHV

EHV-1 is common in the horse population and most often clinically manifests as just a mild respiratory illness, especially in young horses, known commonly as equine rhinopneumonitis or "rhino". Less commonly EHV-1 manifests itself as a neurologic form known as EHM. In very rare cases EHM may be caused by EHV-4. Potential signs of EHV-1 include: decreased coordination, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, **fever, hind limb weakness**, leaning against things to maintain balance, **lethargy**, and the inability to get off the ground.

Prevention

Safeguarding Indiana's animals, food supply and citizens for more than 125 years.

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Good biosecurity when traveling and interacting with other horses at equine events and boarding facilities is very important. Tack, people's hands, clothing, water buckets and other equipment can spread the virus between animals, so regular cleaning and disinfection are necessary, in addition to avoiding sharing. As always, vaccination is important to keeping horses healthy and supporting good immunity, even though only the respiratory strain is preventable by vaccination.

More information is available on the BOAH website: <https://www.in.gov/boah/species-information/equinehorses/> .

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