



**INTERNATIONAL BREEDERS' MEETING**  
**INTERNATIONAL COLLATING CENTRE**

**Animal Health Trust**

**Information Exchange on Infectious Equine Disease**

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**INTERIM REPORT January 2010 #2**

**United Kingdom**

**Equine infectious anaemia (EIA)**

Equine infectious anaemia (EIA) has been confirmed by positive Coggins (agar gel immuno diffusion assay) in two horses in Wiltshire, England, following importation from Romania via Belgium, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) confirmed late on Tuesday 19th January 2010.

The premises on which the two horses are kept is currently under restriction and the two infected horses will be humanely destroyed in line with existing regulations. The other horses on the premises will be subject to epidemiological investigation in the coming weeks. A further two horses have also been under investigation and test results have proved negative. The animals arrived in a group of 10 horses, nine of which originated from Romania and one from Belgium. The nine Romanian horses were tested for EIA as part of routine post-import testing. Seven horses all tested negative. The horse that originated in Belgium is due to be tested shortly.

The UK's Chief Veterinary Officer, Nigel Gibbens said: "This is the first case of equine infectious anaemia infected animals being imported into Great Britain since 1976 and shows the success of our post import testing regime. These were apparently healthy horses carrying a notifiable disease that we are keen to keep out of Great Britain. After considering the risk I have decided to take appropriate action and humanely destroy these two horses that tested

positive". More information may be available on this outbreak via the Defra website at <http://www.defra.gov.uk>.

**Regards**  
**International Collating Centre**