



INTERNATIONAL BREEDERS' MEETING
INTERNATIONAL COLLATING CENTRE

Animal Health Trust

Information Exchange on Infectious Equine Disease

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REPORT FOR THE FIRST QUARTER 2009

ARGENTINA

Confirmed nothing to report.

AUSTRALIA

Regret no report received.

CANADA

Confirmed no report was available.

CHILE

Strangles (*Streptococcus equi*)

An outbreak of Strangles commenced on 27th February 2009 with the last case reported on 18th March 2009. Veterquímica Laboratory confirmed the diagnosis by agent isolation. The outbreak was limited and clinically mild affecting 35 Thoroughbred breeding horses on three premises. Clinical signs included fever, anorexia, serous nasal discharge, abscessation of submaxillary, mandibular and retropharyngeal lymph nodes.

DENMARK

Confirmed nothing to report.

FRANCE

(Information supplied via RESPE, the French network for epidemiosurveillance of equine diseases)

Strangles (*Streptococcus equi*)

Two strangles cases among non racing horses occurred on one premises in the department of Oise. The affected animals displayed signs that included fever and lymph node enlargement with laboratory diagnosis made by PCR.

Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)

CEM was confirmed on four premises (three premises with one case and one premise with three cases) following agent isolation (one at a medical laboratory and the others at veterinary laboratories). Cases were among racing horses in Manche, Orne and Oise.

Piroplasmosis

Remains endemic in France.

EHV-1 Respiratory Disease

One Thoroughbred horse with clinical respiratory disease in Seine Maritime was confirmed to have sero-converted to EHV-1 on paired blood samples. The animal was fully vaccinated and no other animals were affected on the premises.

EHV-1 Neurological Disease

One case of EHV neurological disease occurred among non racing horses in Orne. Diagnosis was by positive PCR and culture of brain and spinal cord tissues collected *post-mortem*.

EHV Abortion

Three individual cases on three premises were reported on non-Thoroughbred stud farms. Mares were fully vaccinated and no other cases were observed on these farms (in Orne, Eure and Seine-et-Marne).

Equine Influenza

EI was confirmed in Standardbred horses on eight premises that were epidemiologically linked. Clinical signs included coughing, fever, conjunctivitis and nasal discharge. The first affected premises was a training centre in Val de Marne. The other affected premises were in Calvados, Orne, Maine-et-Loire, Alpes-Maritimes and Tarn-et-Garonne. The animals were fully vaccinated. Laboratory diagnosis was based on rapid ELISA and PCR. Initial results of viral strain typing indicate that the isolate was genetically closely related to Ohio 2003/H5N8 Florida clade 1 strain.

Equine Infectious Anemia

One case of EIA in a non-racing horse was reported on one premises at the end of March. The French Ministry is performing a nationwide tracing, epidemiological and serological inquiry any further information will be reported as it becomes available.

GERMANY

EHV-1 Abortion

An EHV-1 outbreak among Thoroughbred breeding stock was outlined in the last quarter on one premises in the Federal State of the Lower Saxony. The outbreak commenced on 8th January 2009 and the last

reported case occurred on 16th March 2009. Six vaccinated mares were affected and diagnosis was by PCR on fetal tissues conducted by the University of Hannover. Serological investigation of this outbreak is still under way.

Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA)

Further to the previously reported EIA cases on premises in two different administrative districts, notice has been given that the investigations have been completed. The competent authorities considered the disease eradicated in the affected administrative districts and consequently removed all implemented quarantine measures on the affected premises and within the established protection zones.

HONG KONG

Confirmed nothing to report.

IRELAND (Republic of)

Strangles (*Streptococcus equi*)

Ten cases were diagnosed on 10 different premises.

Salmonellosis

Two outbreaks were reported.

Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA)

No positives among 5381 samples screened in the quarter.

EVA.

No evidence of virus circulating in the country among 5972 samples examined in the quarter.

Equine Influenza

Serological evidence has confirmed diagnosis. Virus isolation attempts are in progress.

EHV-1 Abortion

Two mares aborted in single cases on two premises. On one premises with a mixed vaccination history a foal also died and one foal was sick.

EHV-3

One stallion was confirmed positive by PCR and virus isolation.

ITALY

West Nile Virus (WNV)

An outbreak commenced in September 2008 with the last reported case in January 2009. Diagnosis was confirmed by IZS Teramo (CESME) laboratory using serology and PCR. Two cases were confirmed in January (one in a donkey) which were not clinically evident but positive on serological examinations. Some sera-positive birds have been found but the lack of clinical cases may be correlated with the absence of vectors at this time of year.

JAPAN

S. abortus equi

An outbreak was reported on 26th December 2008 with the last reported case on 7th January 2009. The laboratory confirming diagnosis was the Hokkaido Nemuro Livestock Hygiene Service Centre using

agent isolation. The outbreak was limited to one unvaccinated breeding non-Thoroughbred. (This report is a continuation of last quarter's report.)

A further case at different premises was reported on 26th February 2009. The laboratory confirming diagnosis was Hokkaido Abashiri Livestock Hygiene Service Centre using agent isolation. The outbreak was limited to one un-vaccinated breeding stock non-Thoroughbred.

EHV-1 Abortion

An outbreak was reported on 13th January 2009 with the last reported case on 28th March 2009. The laboratory confirming diagnosis was Hakkaido Hidaka Livestock Hygiene Service Centre using serology. The outbreak was limited, affecting 23 breeding stock on 11 premises. Nineteen of the horses had been vaccinated.

NEW ZEALAND

Confirmed nothing to report.

SINGAPORE

Confirmed nothing to report.

SOUTH AFRICA

Regret no report received

SOUTH KOREA

Confirmed nothing to report

SPAIN

Confirmed nothing to report.

SWEDEN

Strangles

Endemic strangles affects all type of horses all over the country.

SWITZERLAND

Strangles (*Streptococcus equi*)

A report was received in February of strangles, affecting one non-Thoroughbred based on clinical diagnosis only unknown vaccination history.

TURKEY

Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1, EHV-4)

An outbreak was reported on 26th January 2009, with the last case reported on 4th March 2009. Confirmation of diagnosis was by Ankara University Faculty of Veterinary Medicine by PCR. The outbreak was limited and clinically mild affecting eight Thoroughbreds on one premises.

Leptospirosis

An outbreak commenced on 17th January 2009 with the last case reported on 16th March 2009. The diagnosis was confirmed by the Etlik VCRI Laboratory by MAT. The outbreak was limited and clinically mild affecting three horses (Thoroughbred and non-Thoroughbred) on one premises.

Piroplasmosis

One case in a breeding horse was reported on 10th March 2009. The case was clinically mild and was confirmed by the Etlik VCRI Laboratory by serology and c-ELISA.

Rabies

One case was reported on 12th February 2009, affecting one non-Thoroughbred horse. Diagnosis was confirmed by the Elazig VCRI Laboratory by serology, Sellers test and FAT.

Strangles

An outbreak commenced on 9th February 2009 with the last case reported on 2nd March 2009. The laboratory confirming diagnosis was Pendik VCRI. The outbreak was limited and clinically mild affecting four Thoroughbreds on two premises.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES**Piroplasmosis**

Outbreaks of infection with *B. caballi* and *Th. equi* are endemic in the UAE and cases are reported periodically. The outbreaks affect non-Thoroughbred horses and are diagnosed by serology and agent isolation by the Central Ventral Research Laboratory, Dubai.

UNITED KINGDOM**EHV-1 Abortion**

Two larger outbreaks and five single cases of EHV-1 abortions have been reported including: an abortion storm involving five abortions in vaccinated Thoroughbred mares on a stud farm. On another stud farm a foal which was born alive but died soon afterwards was diagnosed by PCR as infected with EHV-1. Subsequently the two in-contact mares aborted within the following two weeks. All the mares had been vaccinated against EHV-1, but had been in contact with young stock.

EHV-4 Abortion

One abortion in a Thoroughbred mare was confirmed by PCR to be due to EHV-4 infection.

EHV-4 Respiratory Infection

EHV-4 was isolated from nasopharyngeal swabs from two horses on two separate yards which showed respiratory signs including cough, nasal discharge, pyrexia and lethargy. One of these horses was a 14 year old mare.

Equine Influenza

One outbreak of equine influenza was reported in this quarter. Two unvaccinated horses in Cheshire showed respiratory signs, and were positive by NP ELISA on a nasopharyngeal swab. Subsequently influenza virus was isolated and sequenced. Both isolates belonged to clade 1 of the Florida sublineage of H3N8 equine influenza virus. The two influenza positive horses serologically showed high titres for H3N8 on the HI-test.

Strangles

An outbreak has been reported in a Newmarket training yard with four affected horses and about 45 in-contacts. Appropriate measures have immediately been taken at the beginning of the outbreak and further spread was prevented. Strangles remains endemic in the UK, especially among parts of the non-Thoroughbred horse population. Diagnoses are confirmed in the UK based on traditional culture of *S.equi* and qPCR on respiratory samples and/or seroconversion using a new blood-based ELISA.

EHV-3

A Thoroughbred stallion which presented typical clinical signs, showed a seroconversion to EHV-3 on the VN test. The infection was confirmed by isolation of EHV-3 from penile lesions. A donkey mare was seropositive on the EHV-3 VN test and showed typical clinical signs.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)**

During December 2008 four stallions (3 Quarter Horses, 1 American Paint) were identified as positive for *Taylorella equigenitalis* the causative bacteria of CEM. Each stallion stood the 2008 breeding season with 18 other stallions at a facility in central Kentucky specializing in semen collection for artificial insemination (AI). Stallions on this premises had relocated on numerous occasions throughout several states since 2004. At the end of March 2009, 15 stallions and four mares were confirmed positive for CEM by bacteriological culture in seven states. Positive stallions were distributed in Georgia (1 horse), Indiana (3), Kentucky (4), Texas (1) and Wisconsin (6). Mares were distributed in California (2), Illinois (1) and Wisconsin (1). All positive stallions are/were treated with antibiotics, test bred to two mares and subsequently retested for the presence of *T. equigenitalis*. Positive mares were also treated and retested. On 12th March all infected and exposed stallions on the facility in Kentucky where CEM was initially diagnosed were released from quarantine having tested negative for CEM. National tracing of stallions and mares by federal and state veterinary officials identified 711 animals (599 mares, 112 stallions) in 46 states exposed to infected horses by AI, natural cover or located on the same premises.

Due to the extensive and frequent interstate movement of stallions between breeding seasons prior to the detection of the outbreak it has not been possible at this stage to identify the source of the outbreak. In addition to transmission by AI and natural mating, lateral (on farm) transmission between stallions as a result of communal use of contaminated equipment played a significant part in dissemination of CEM. No Thoroughbred animals have been identified in the outbreak. The last outbreak of CEM in the United States occurred during 2006 among three Lipizzaner stallions imported to Wisconsin from Eastern Europe.

EHV-1 Abortion

At the end of March, 10 cases have been diagnosed among Thoroughbred mares in central Kentucky by the University of Kentucky Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center.

Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP)

The last premises to house infected EP horses involved in the 2008 outbreak in Florida were released from state quarantine on March 12. All positive EP animals had been removed and all other horses tested serologically negative for EP 60 days after removal of positive animals. The premises underwent tick surveillance without finding ticks positive for EP.

REGARDS**INTERNATIONAL COLLATING CENTRE**

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