

Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Advisory Committee
October 10, 2023, Meeting Minutes

Item No.

(1) Call to Order

- a. The meeting was called to order on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 9:03am by Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson.

(2) Roll Call

Present:

Dr. Stephanie Flowers, California Veterinary Medical Association
Mr. Robert Gage, California State Horsemen's Association
Ms. Nancy Harvey, Arabian Horse Association
Ms. Landy Hedlund, Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association
Dr. Jeanette Mero, American Endurance Ride Conference
Ms. Jaclyn Pepper, California Dressage Society
Dr. Russell Peterson, American Association of Equine Practitioners
Mr. William Pettis, American Morgan Horse Association
Dr. Chris Smith, Pacific Coast Horse Show Association
Ms. Rae Stambuk, California Reining Horse Association
Dr. Mike Tomlinson, U.S. Equestrian Federation
Dr. Stephen Schumacher, U.S. Equestrian Federation (non-voting member)

Absent:

Ms. Jody Cutler, American Driving Society
Dr. Neil Gray, California Professional Horsemen's Association
Ms. Jo Ann Jackson, California Draft Horse & Mule Association
Dr. Michele LaMantia, Pinto Horse Association of America, Inc.

CDFA Present:

Mr. Lee Harrison, Agricultural Program Supervisor, EMMP
Ms. Christina Murphy, Management Services Technician, EMMP
Ms. JoAnn Scott, Staff Services Analyst, CDFA Animal Health Branch
Dr. Andrea Mikolon, Assistant Branch Chief, CDFA Animal Health Branch
Dr. Amanda Murray, Branch Chief, CDFA Animal Health Branch

(3) Review of Minutes

Minutes of the June 30, 2023, meeting were reviewed.

MOTION #1: Ms. Rae Stambuk motioned to approve the minutes as written, and Mr. William Pettis seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Dr. Chris Smith abstained from voting.

(4) Advisory Committee Updates

The EMMP advisory committee (EMMPAC) welcomed Dr. Stephanie Flowers as the new representative for the California Veterinary Medical Association. Ms.

Kalia Mitchell from the California Fairs and Expositions group stepped down from the EMMPAC and therefore resigned her position as the vice-chairperson. Ms. Nancy Harvey volunteered to fill the vice-chairperson position.

MOTION #2: Mr. William Pettis motioned to close the nominations and appoint Ms. Nancy Harvey as the new vice-chair and Dr. Russ Peterson seconded the motion. Motion was unanimously approved. Chair abstained from voting.

There are several open positions on the EMMPAC. All associations have been sent follow-up letters to nominate a representative for the board but there have not been responses yet.

(5) United States Equestrian Federation (USEF)

Dr. Stephen Schumacher gave an update on the United States Equestrian Federation (USEF). At the June 2023 USEF board meeting, it was voted that by December 1, 2025, horses would be required to be microchipped in order to compete. Biothermal microchips, which allow for horse's temperatures to be taken via microchip scanning, are encouraged but not required.

There have been several rule changes proposed for the isolation plans and biosecurity at events. The first is that all riders, drivers, handlers, owners, trainers, coaches, agents etc., must abide by and comply with the competition biosecurity measures and equine health requirements as imposed by USEF and competition management. The second proposed rule would require event management to ensure that all USEF competitions are conducted in accordance with the applicable USEF, federal and state animal health requirements. The third rule is that if a horse at a competition has a fever (101.5 or higher), competition management and the competition veterinarian must be notified as soon as possible. The veterinarian will then determine if testing and isolation is necessary and report it to USEF. The fourth rule is that if a competition is held for more than ten (10) consecutive days at the same location, they must have on-site isolation stalls or an agreement in place for offsite isolation stalls. The fifth rule is that all horses on the grounds of USEF competitions must have temperatures taken at least twice a day when at an event. The last proposed rule change is that instead of a medication report form being required to be submitted within one (1) hour of administering the medication, now the report just must be submitted any time prior to the horse entering the competition or class. This rule also extends to shockwave therapy treatments given to a horse within three (3) days of competition.

(6) Animal Health Updates Equine Diseases

Dr. Andrea Mikolon presented California's equine health updates on the following topics: Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV), Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA), Equine herpesvirus (EHV) and West Nile Virus (WNV).

So far in 2023, there have been three (3) Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) cases in California. In March 2023, a 21-year-old molly mule in Fresno County tested positive for EIA. Natural transmission was suspected. Five (5) exposed horses on the home premises tested negative, and 105 potentially exposed pack mules were tested with results pending. In June 2023, a 5-year-old racing Quarter Horse gelding in Los Angeles County tested positive for EIA. Iatrogenic transmission is suspected in this case and eight (8) exposed horses on the home premises tested negative. In September 2023, a 4-year-old racing Quarter Horse gelding in Riverside County tested positive for EIA. Twenty-four (24) exposures horses on an epidemiologically linked premises have been tested with results pending.

Since the last EMMP advisory committee meeting, there have been five (5) EHM incidents. The first incident was in Riverside County in April 2023, when an 18-year-old Warmblood gelding was neurologic and was euthanized. Thirty-six (36) exposed horses were quarantined and there were no additional cases on this premises. The second incident was in Monterey County in April 2023, when a 25-year-old Quarter Horse gelding was febrile, neurologic and was subsequently euthanized. Twenty-five (25) exposed horses were quarantined and there were no additional cases on this premises. The third incident was in Modoc County in May 2023, when an 8-year-old Quarter Horse mare became neurologic. The mare recovered and there were six (6) exposed horses quarantined with no additional cases. The fourth incident was in San Luis Obispo County in May 2023, when a 19-year-old Paint mare became neurologic. Forty (40) horses on the mare's home premises and two (2) additional horses at an offsite veterinary hospital were quarantined and there were no additional cases. The fifth incident was in Stanislaus County in June 2023 when a 25-year-old Quarter Horse gelding displayed mild neurological signs. Four (4) additional horses on the home premises with fever or edema tested positive for EHV-1. Twenty-eight (28) additional horses on the premises were quarantined.

So far in 2023, there have been twenty-seven (27) West Nile Virus (WNV) cases. The ages of infected horses ranged from 1-23 years. Of these twenty-seven (27) cases, eight (8) horses were vaccinated, three (3) were under-vaccinated, ten (10) were unvaccinated and six (6) had unknown vaccination status. Seventeen (17) horses are alive and recovering, eight (8) died or were euthanized, and three (3) currently have an unknown status. Cases have been confirmed in nineteen (19) counties so far.

Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) has been detected in May in California for the first time since 1983. Due to the unprecedented wet weather in the winter of 2022-2023 in southern California, the vectors that carry VSV came up from Mexico where VSV is endemic. To date, there have been 204 VSV-affected premises in ten (10) counties. 200 premises have had only affected equines, three (3) have had affected cattle and one (1) has had affected exotics. VSV is mostly spread through biting insects (black flies, sand flies and midges) but can also be spread by animal-to-animal exposure to saliva or fluid from ruptured

vesicles. Insect control, quarantine/isolation of affected animals, and cleaning and disinfecting of water troughs and feed bins can help to prevent the spread of the disease.

(7) Program Updates

Administrative Updates

Mr. Lee Harrison gave an update on the EMMP staffing. Ms. Christina Murphy has been hired to fill the EMMP Management Services Technician position that was previously occupied by Ms. Nancy Ragen. Ms. JoAnn Scott and Dr. Andrea Mikolon have been assisting with EMMP while Ms. Katie Hatch and Dr. Emily Nietrzeba are on leave.

EMMP currently only has five (5) testers. Positions have been posted but there are currently no qualified applicants. The EMMPAC discussed potential options to increase interest in the positions. Mr. Harrison will talk with branch management about the potential of raising the position type from an Ag Tech I to an Ag Tech III which would be a higher salary rate.

In 2022, EMMP started collecting an “A” and “B” blood sample at events for legal purposes. New in 2023, the same will be done for urine samples. The “A” sample will be tested at the lab after an event and the “B” sample will be stored at the lab to have as a secondary sample in the case of a detection and legal case where the appellant requests additional testing.

Legal Update

The EMMPAC discussed the continued desire to increase the fee exemption limits as they have not increased in conjunction with the fee increases. This change would need to be sponsored by the equine industry via a state senator or political representative as this would be a change to the California Food and Agricultural Code (FAC). The advisory committee needs to identify a sponsor to move forward with this code change.

Due to multiple detections of romifidine at events in 2023, the EMMPAC would like EMMP to create a poster/handout for event managers to display at events. This poster would be to remind competitors that just because a medication is allowed by a hosting organization (i.e. romifidine is allowed by the National Reining Horse Association), it is still considered prohibited under California state law. California state law supersedes organizational rules.

Financial Update

Due to the testing fee being raised to \$14 in 2022, the EMMP financials have stabilized and EMMP is no longer being run at a net-loss. The previously approved 2023-2024 fiscal year budget shows a projected net-gain for this fiscal year as well.

(8) Research Update

Dr. Russ Hovey from the UC Davis Animal Science Department is working on the EMMPAC approved study on "Implication on teff hay consumption and potential synephrine detection in blood and urine". The project is moving forward and should be completed by the end of 2024.

(9) Committee New Business Discussion

No new items were discussed. The next advisory committee meeting is planned for March 2024.

(10) Closing Comments

Chairperson Dr. Mike Tomlinson adjourned the meeting at 10:16am.