



Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) Event Manager Newsletter

January 2021

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EMMP Reminders and Updates

COVID-19 Impact

The equine industry faced major challenges during the year 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. The Equine Medication Monitoring Program (EMMP) registers equine events of twenty-seven (27) different disciplines across California. The past year a drastic decrease in events being held was noticed. In 2016-2019, the average number of events registered and held under EMMP was 1,451 and 1,189 respectively with a cancellation rate of 18%. In 2020 1,075 equine events were registered and only 520 held with a cancellation rate of 51%. During 2016-2019, an average of 103,000 horses per year were registered for sale or competition while in 2020, approximately 54,000 horses were registered instead indicating a 48% decrease.

Please remember that event managers are required to notify EMMP staff of equine event cancellations and changes to the event date, time or location via email to emmp@cdfa.ca.gov or phone call to 916-900-5045.

New EMMP Program Veterinarian

EMMP would like to welcome Dr. Emily Nietrzeba as the new EMMP program veterinarian. Dr. Nietrzeba joined the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Animal Health Branch (AHB) in August 2019 and assisted the equine health team in several equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) incidents. She has also vast experience working with many other species. In June 2020, Dr. Nietrzeba became the new equine veterinarian for the AHB and EMMP program veterinarian. Dr. Nietrzeba is stepping into Dr. Katie Flynn shoes, who has accepted the position of the new Kentucky State Veterinarian. We are grateful for Dr. Flynn's years of leadership and guidance for the EMMP and are thankful for her expertise she has shared with the equine community.

Drug Testing Fee

As of January 1, 2020, the California drug testing fee increased from \$5 to \$8 per horse entered into competition or consigned to a public sale. Event managers are responsible for collecting the fee for each horse at an equine competition or sale. The testing fee is being maintained at \$8 for 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the EMMP fees, please contact CDFA EMMP at emmp@cdfa.ca.gov or 916-900-5002.

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EMMP Reminders and Updates (*continued*)

Responsibilities of an Event Manager

Reminder the following are the responsibilities of an event manager:

1. Filing an Application to Register Equine Event (Form 76-024A) with the EMMP at least **sixty (60) days** before the event is to begin.
2. Collecting the fee of \$8.00 for each horse being entered or consigned to the event.
3. Remitting the fees collected and submitting the Assessment Report for Registered Event (Form 76-024A) to EMMP within fifteen (15) days after the final day of the event.
4. Retaining event records for two (2) years after the final day of the event. To enable verification of the collection and remittance of appropriate event fees, event records must be made available, if requested, for inspection and photocopying by EMMP staff.
5. Collecting, signing, and promptly submitting exhibitor or consignor Drug Declaration Forms (CA Form 76-027 or USEF Medication Report Form) to the EMMP.

Event managers are required to submit fees within 15 days of the final day of the event.

A civil penalty of 10% of the amount due plus 1.5% interest/month on the unpaid balance calculated from the date of the event will be levied on an event manager who fails to remit collected fees within fifteen (15) days of the final day of the event.

Equine Health Updates

Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) Available for California Horses

As a reminder, starting January 1, 2020, California veterinarians can now issue Extended Equine Certificates of Veterinary Inspection (EECVIs) for equines using GlobalVetLINK (GVL). This electronic movement document requires a current Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins) test and the EECVI is valid for up to six (6) months. This EECVI may be a favorable option for horses or other equines that frequently travel interstate, such as for shows or ranch work. Owners are required to log every trip movement to obtain a travel permit and must verify the health of the horses prior to travel. To utilize this service and create an EECVI, veterinarians must be signed up with GVL. To learn more about EECVIs and see which other states are participating in the program, visit <https://www.globalvetlink.com/eecvi/>.

EDCC- Great Resource for Event Managers

The Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) is a communication system designed to seek and report real time information on equine disease incidents. This resource allows event managers to know what diseases are in the area of the show or in the area where event horses are originating. In addition to disease alerts, there are resources such as disease fact sheets and biosecurity resources. For more information visit <http://www.equinediseasecc.org/>.



Number of Cases of Reportable Equine Diseases by Year

Year	Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)	Equine Piroplasmosis (EP)	EIA/EP Dual Infection	Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM)	Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1)	West Nile Virus (WNV)	Totals
2014	26	14	8	0	3	15	66
2015	3	0	0	0	5	19	27
2016	0	0	0	0	20	21	41
2017	1	0	0	0	5	21	27
2018	0	0	0	0	13	11	22
2019	0	0	0	0	17	15	32
2020	1	0	0	0	23	20	44
TOTALS	31	14	8	0	86	122	259

Disease Incidents in California

West Nile Virus Update

For 2020, a total of twenty (20) horses were confirmed positive for West Nile Virus in California. The positive horses were located in Amador (2), Butte (1), Glenn (1), Kings (1), Merced (1), Modoc (1), Nevada (1), Riverside (2), Sacramento (1), San Bernardino (1), San Joaquin (4), Solano (1) and Stanislaus (3) counties. Fourteen (14) horses were unvaccinated, four (4) horses had unknown vaccine history and two (2) were vaccinated. Fifteen (15) horses are alive, one (1) horse died, and four (4) horses were euthanized. Horses ranged in age from one (1) to twenty (20) years, with both genders and multiple breeds represented.

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne virus that is maintained in the wild bird population and is spread between birds by mosquitos. Birds are considered the natural reservoir for WNV since high levels of virus circulate in their bloodstream. Mosquitos acquire WNV in blood

meals from infected birds and pass it on to other birds, animals, and people. Mosquitos that feed on an infected horse or human have not demonstrated the ability to ingest enough of the virus to transmit it to other animals or humans; therefore, horses and humans are considered "dead end hosts."

West Nile Virus may cause a wide range of clinical illness ranging from mild "flu-like" signs to encephalitis (inflammation of the brain) that may be fatal to both humans and horses. While horses are susceptible to WNV infection, many infected horses do not develop clinical illness and recover uneventfully. WNV vaccination is considered a core vaccination by the American Association of Equine Practitioners and an essential standard of care for all horses in North America.



Disease Incidents in California (*continued*)

Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) Update

In 2020, there were several Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) incidents. The first incident was in Santa Barbara county in January 2020 when a 21-year-old Quarter horse gelding displayed a fever and neurologic signs and was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1). The gelding was euthanized due to severity of clinical signs. The two exposed horses on the gelding's home premise were quarantined and both tested positive for EHV-1. One of those two horses became neurologic and the other was only febrile. Both horses recovered and the quarantine was released after twenty-seven (27) days.

The second incident was in Alameda county in March 2020 when a 14-year-old pony mare displayed neurologic signs and was confirmed positive for EHV-1. The mare was isolated and quarantined at a veterinary hospital and forty-four (44) exposed horses on the home premise were quarantined. Ten (10) additional horses on the premise became febrile and tested positive for EHV-1, however there were no additional neurologic horses. The quarantine lasted fifty-eight (58) days as there was very limited personal protective equipment (PPE) available due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The third incident was in Sonoma county in April 2020 when a 10-year-old Warmblood mare displayed neurologic signs, was sent to an outside veterinary hospital for treatment and confirmed positive for EHV-1. The home premise of forty-eight (48) exposed horses were quarantined, there were no additional cases and quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days.

The fourth incident was in Imperial county in August 2020 when a one-year-old Quarter Horse filly was euthanized due to severe neurologic signs and was confirmed positive for Equine herpesvirus-4 (EHV-4). Three (3) horses on the home premise were quarantined and one additional horse became febrile and tested positive for EHV-4. The quarantine was released after twenty-five (25) days.

The fifth incident was in El Dorado county in August 2020. A 17-year-old Thoroughbred gelding with fever and neurologic signs was euthanized and confirmed positive for EHV-1. The home premise had ten (10) additional horses put under quarantine and there were no additional cases, so quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days.

The sixth incident was in Sonoma county in October 2020 when a 30-year-old Warmblood gelding displaying fever and neurologic signs was confirmed positive for EHV-1. The gelding was quarantined in the isolation barn on the premise where it was temporarily residing after evacuating from a nearby fire in the weeks prior. One additional case, a 30-year-old Warmblood mare, displayed mild respiratory signs and possible mild neurological signs was also confirmed positive for EHV-1. No other cases were confirmed, and the quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days.

The seventh incident was in November 2020 in Los Angeles County when a 14-year-old Saddlebred gelding was displaying neurologic signs and confirmed positive for EHV-1. A quarantine was issued for sixty-six (66) additional horses on the home premise and one additional horse on the premise became febrile and tested positive for EHV-1. No additional cases were confirmed, and the quarantine was released after twenty-eight (28) days.

Disease Incidents in California (*continued*)

The final EHV-1 incident of 2020 was in Ventura county in December 2020. A 13-year-old Quarter horse mare in Ventura County displayed fever and neurological signs and was confirmed positive for EHV-1. The mare was quarantined and isolated at a veterinary hospital where she was receiving supportive care and the home premises of thirty-two (32) potentially exposed horses were quarantined. The home premises' quarantine was released after fourteen (14) days with no additional cases and the quarantine on the index case at the veterinary hospital was released after twenty (20) days after the index mare received two (2) negative tests seven (7) days apart.

For more information regarding EHV-1, see

https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_herpes_virus.html.

