

USDA Releases Equine Piroplasmosis Literature Review

Concerns about equine piroplasmosis (EP), a blood-borne disease considered to be foreign to the United States, have prompted educational efforts to inform veterinarians and horse owners about the disease. To further these educational efforts, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is releasing *A Literature Review of Equine Piroplasmosis*. This comprehensive report on EP will serve as a resource for veterinarians and others within the equine industry. The report is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/piroplasmosis/downloads/ep_literature_review_september_2010.pdf. No hard copies of the report will be published by USDA-APHIS.

Although EP is primarily transmitted to horses by ticks, this blood-borne disease has been spread mechanically from animal to animal by contaminated blood and intravenous equipment (syringes/needles). Once infected, a horse might not show signs of disease for 7 to 22 days, and some horses may never show any clinical signs. Cases of EP can be mild or acute. In its milder form, EP causes the horse to appear weak and to show a lack of appetite. Acutely affected equids can have fever, anemia, jaundiced mucous membranes, swollen abdomens and labored breathing. EP can also cause a roughened hair coat, constipation and colic.

Other USDA information about EP, including the factsheets "Equine Piroplasmosis" and "Protect Your Horses from Piroplasmosis," is available at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/animal_diseases/piroplasmosis/. Reports of recent EP cases are available from the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) at www.oie.int/wahis/public.php?page=weekly_report_index&admin=0.

Note to Stakeholders: Stakeholder announcements and other APHIS information are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS home page at www.aphis.usda.gov and click on the "Newsroom" button. For additional information on this topic, contact Lyndsay Cole at (970) 494-7410, or e-mail lyndsay.m.cole@aphis.usda.gov

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