



5th August, 2010.

EQUINE HERPES VIRUS IN TASMANIA

Equine herpes virus type 1 (EHV1) (abortigenic and neurological strains) - A recent outbreak of EHV1 in Tasmanian homebred mares where over 30% were affected including one death and several abortions, should remind Tasmanian horse owners to be aware of this disease. EHV1 is generally thought to be uncommon in the Tasmanian horse population although abortion that is highly suspicious of EHV1 is regularly reported in mares introduced from the mainland. EHV1 can be excreted by previously infected horses when they are stressed eg by transport or entering a new group. Care must be taken to keep introduced horses isolated from pregnant mares on your property. This includes not sharing water troughs, feed bins and other gear and not permitting over-the-fence contact. EHV1 can be easily spread by contact with aborted foetuses and associated materials so cleaning up after an abortion is a high priority. Vaccination is available as an aid in the control of EHV1 abortion; however vaccine alone will not prevent abortions. Your veterinarian should be consulted as a matter of urgency if you suspect EHV1 infection on your property so a management plan can be initiated as soon as possible to limit losses. EHV1 is a notifiable disease.

See more details about Equine Herpes at : http://www.horsecouncil.org.au/_Upload/Files/Equine%20Herpes.pdf