



Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program
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NEWS RELEASE

PROTECT YOUR HORSE FROM HERPES VIRUS

June 8, 2018

The Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) also known as Rhinopneumonitis in horses has been diagnosed in 2 horses on Navajo Nation at the end of May on the Arizona side, Kinlichee and Sanders Community. The Navajo Nation Veterinary & Livestock Program is advising horse owners to be aware of travel requirements and recommendations from our neighboring states. One horse has overcome the disease with supportive treatment and the other has died.

The EHV-1 virus is not transmitted to people; it can be a serious equine disease that can cause respiratory, neurological disease and death. The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. It can also be spread by contaminated tack, equipment and people's clothing. In addition, the virus can spread through aerosols (airborne) for a limited distance.

Symptoms include fever, decreased coordination, nasal discharge, urine dribbling, loss of tail tone, hind limb weakness, leaning against a wall or fence to maintain balance, lethargy and inability to rise. While there is no cure, the symptoms of the disease may be treatable.

Question whether to travel with your horse:

1. Consider the disease risk before transporting horses.
2. The only way to prevent the spread of EHV-1 is to stop the movement and comingling of horses.
3. Make sure your horses are current on EHV-1 (Rhino) Vaccination
4. Horse owners, who suspect their horse may have been exposed to EHV-1; should contact their veterinarian immediately.
5. If you decide to travel with your horse:
 - a. Work with your veterinarian, it may be possible for the state of designation to have additional travel & health restrictions on your horse before entering their state.
 - b. Call ahead to the organizers of the event to see if they may require additional health requirements or that if the event has been cancelled.
 - c. Use separate water, feed supplies and equipment
 - d. Keep other horses away from your horses.
6. Use biosecurity measures and hygiene; to keep the area around your horses clean.

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NNVLP clinics: Chinle (928) 674-2069, Shiprock (505) 368-1007,
and Window Rock (505)371-5214.

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Most farm/ranch and horse supply stores have started a “no return” policy on any item that may be used around horses including tack, clothing, saddles, buckets, feed, etc, to help prevent further spread thru these types of horse items.

Recommendations to horse owners - Question whether to travel with your horse:

1. Consider the disease risk before transporting horses.
2. The only way to prevent the spread of EHV-1 is to stop the movement and comingling of horses.
- 3. Make sure your horses are current on EHV-1 (Rhino) Vaccination.**
- 4. Check with your veterinarian for state updates and keep health certificates updated.**
5. Keep other horses away from your horses.
6. Use Biosecurity measures and hygiene; to keep the area around your horses clean. Don't share tack, buckets, wash hands...etc,

For shows/rodeos/ropings -sponsors and organizers:

1. Have all horses checked at admission by organizers and refuse entry- send home any horse with temp over 101F. ("No Fever Policy")
 2. Prevent communal feeding and watering areas. (i.e.: owners have to fill their buckets, stock water tanks are not recommended.
 3. Cleaning staff for sanitation. Hand washing after every contact with horses.
 4. Show/rodeo's take responsibilities for health prevention.
 - a. Require Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) also known as a health certificate
 - b. Require a signed Biosecurity agreement for all horse owners.
 - c. Maintain accurate address, telephone number and physical address for all attendees.
- Also recommending that horse owners check horse temperatures every day.

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