

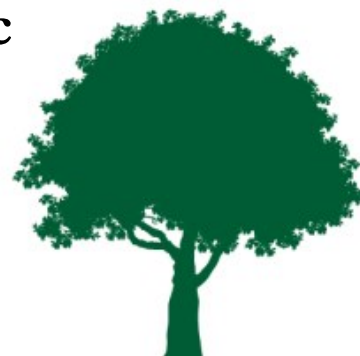
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Damory Veterinary Clinic

Equine Department



Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) Facts

EHV causes four clinical syndromes:

- Respiratory disease
- Abortion
- New born foal death
- Neurological disease: called 'Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy' may or may not be related to previous or on-going respiratory disease

Respiratory Disease: What to look out for

- Fever (causing lethargy)
- Coughing
- Nasal Discharge

Neurological Disease: What to look out for

- Incoordination of the hind (and occasionally front) limbs
- Urine retention/dribbling - can present as mild colic
- Recumbency (inability to get up)
- Neurological signs may be preceded by fever and respiratory signs.

Transmission: How is the disease spread?

- Aerosol – most common route. Inhalation of droplets from coughing and snorting
Shedding can last typically 7-10 days but can persist much longer
Therefore a **28-day isolation period** is recommended after diagnosis
- Indirect Transmission – Fomites
Virus can be live in the environment for a couple of weeks.
Fomites (e.g. people, tack, yard equipment) can pass the virus between horses.

Incubation Time:

May be as short as 24hrs but typically 4-6 days but *can be longer*

Prevention:

- Seek veterinary attention immediately if disease is suspected.
- Segregate pregnant mares from all other horses and stop all breeding activities
- STOP all movements on and off the premises for at least 28 days
- Divide pregnant mares into small physically separated groups for the duration of pregnancy.
- Stress reduction by avoiding physiological stress: maintain social structures, avoid prolonged transport, relocation, poor nutrition, parasitism, environmental exposure and en masse weaning of juveniles.
- Disinfect and destroy bedding; clean and disinfect premises, equipment and vehicles used for horse transport.