
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF ANIMAL HEALTH
Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease
and other Animal Exotic Diseases

EQUINE VIRAL ARTERITIS

Equine viral arteritis, also known as “equine typhus” is a contagious disease affecting equine, mainly horses and ponies and is characterized for causing conjunctivitis and edema.

What is its geographical distribution?

This disease is endemic to equine population of many countries worldwide.

Who or what causes it?

It is caused by *Artevirus* genus virus of the Arterividae family.

How is the virus transmitted?

The virus is found in the secretions and excreta of infected animals (saliva, semen, vaginal fluids, urine and feces.) The virus is transmitted through the airways when horses gather at racetracks, expositions, fairs or other events, or sexually transmitted during natural mating or artificial insemination.

What are the clinical signs?

Most infected equine do not display clinical signs, although in some cases there is fever, depression, lack of appetite, conjunctivitis, photophobia and edema (swelling) in eyelids and legs, and hives located in the head or neck.

A drop in fertility due to a decreased libido can be observed, and females infected during pregnancy may have miscarriages or stillborn fetuses.

The death of infected equine is uncommon, except for serious cases in young or old animals.

How is the disease diagnosed?

It is difficult to clinically distinguish equine viral arteritis from other diseases such as African horse sickness, equine flu and equine infectious anemia, in addition to Getah and Hendra viral infections, equine adenovirus infection and equine herpesvirus 1 and 4, since the signs are similar; therefore, it is necessary to diagnose in an official laboratory.

How can it be prevented?

There have been no reported cases of equine viral arteritis in our country, thus, it is necessary to control the import of animals or semen from affected countries and bolster biosafety measures in stables and places where equines are concentrated.

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SENASICA carries out a permanent epidemiological surveillance aimed to timely detect animal diseases endangering livestock assets and the public health of our country.

Report immediately to the official veterinarian services about any suspicious case; an official veterinarian will visit the production unit, obtain the samples for laboratory diagnosis and give the appropriate instructions.

Contact us for more information or to report any suspicious cases:

Emergency phone: 01 (800) 751 2100
(24 hours/day - 365 days/year)

Phone: 01 (55) 5905 1000
(Extensions 51236, 51242 and 51243)

E-mail addresses:
sive.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx
gestioncpa.dgsa@senasica.gob.mx

You can also report at any SADER or SENASICA offices, or at the Regional Coordination Offices of the CPA closest to your community.