

The SENASICA detects the Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Aldama, Tamaulipas

This disease is carried by vectors, that is, mosquitoes that bite and infect horses, which are not disease transmitters by themselves



The Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) is a disease endemic to the eastern U.S. Coast, and occasionally appears in Tamaulipas.

The National Agro-Alimentary Health, Safety and Quality Service (SENASICA) confirmed isolating the EEE virus in a community of Aldama, Tamaulipas.

The agency of the Secretariat of Agriculture and Rural Development pointed out that songbirds are reservoirs of the disease, which is transmitted to horses through a vector, i.e., they get infected through mosquito bites. Therefore, horses are not transmitters themselves and establishing quarantine areas is unnecessary.

To control the disease in horses, the General Directorate of Animal Health (DGSA) of the SENASICA is already carrying out the necessary procedures to obtain the vaccine for application in the area where the disease is present, as the biological is not produced in Mexico.

In response to a recent report of three working horses dying from equine neuropathy in the Rancho de Piedra communal property, technicians of the Mexico-United States Commission for Prevention of Foot-and-Mouth Disease and other Animal Exotic Diseases (CPA) of the SENASICA visited said location and took samples for the appropriate analysis work at the National Center of Reference of Exotic Animal Diseases of the DGSA.

The EEE is a disease endemic to the United States, mainly present in the states of Massachusetts, Michigan, Florida, Georgia, New York, and North Carolina. The transmission of the virus commonly takes place around the sweet water hardwood swamps in the Atlantic Coast, Gulf of Mexico, and Great Lakes states.

The General Directorate of Animal Health of the SENASICA reported that the disease occasionally appears in Mexico, and that the last epizootic caused by this infectious agent also occurred in Tamaulipas in 1996.

Since mosquitoes can also transmit the virus to humans, the SENASICA immediately reported the finding to the Secretariat of Health.

Likewise, to reduce the risk of infection with the EEE virus, the population is advised to take measures to control mosquitoes both in indoors and outdoors, like the application of insect repellents, and use of long-sleeve shirts and trousers.