Emerging Diseases

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Overview

• Diseases:
  – Equine Infectious Anemia
  – Equine Herpes Virus
  – Vesicular Stomatitis

• Prevalence and control
Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)

• What is it?
  – Viral disease that affects horses, donkeys and mules

• How do they get it?
  – Vectors and fomites

• What does the disease look like?
  – Chronic disease
  – Acute disease
  – Subclinical disease
Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)
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- Coggins Test
  - Performed by a CFIA accredited veterinarian
  - Blood sample is taken and sent to an accredited laboratory
  - Results:
    • 3-5 business days
Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)

No cure for this disease!

- Use disposable needles and syringes for each horse (even when vaccinating)
- Test horses at the time of a purchase examination, consider having them tested annually
- Stable owners/event managers should require and verify a negative Coggins certificates for all horses entering the premise
Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA)

- New horses entering a property should be quarantined from the other horses and monitored for any signs of illness, including elevated temperatures.
- Keep stable areas clean, dry and waste-free!
EIA Summary

- Viral disease that causes life-long infections and there is no current cure for the disease
- Coggins Test is used to test for the presence of EIA
- Good biosecurity and management practices along with a negative Coggins test can help decrease the risk of EIA
Equine Herpes Virus (EHV 1&4)

• What is it?
  – Virus that causes respiratory disease (EHV1&4), neurological disease (EHV1) and abortion of pregnant mares (EHV1& rarely 4)

• How do they get it?
  – Respiratory transmission, fomites and aborted tissues

• What does the disease look like?
  – Respiratory disease
  – Neurologic disease
  – Abortion in pregnant mares
Equine Herpes Virus (EHV 1&4)
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Detection of herpes virus infection:
• Nasal Swab and blood will be taken for Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) or virus isolation
Equine Herpes Virus (EHV 1&4)

- Treatment – often supportive and dependent on severity of disease and clinical signs
- Vaccine is available
  - Decreases frequency and severity of clinical signs
  - Decreases shedding of other horses
Equine Herpes Virus (EHV 1&4)

Common virus that is easily spread!

• New horses entering a property should be quarantined from the other horses and monitored for any signs of illness, including elevated temperatures

• Biosecurity!
  – Disinfect all areas of the barn and transport vehicle
  – Isolate horses who have elevated temperatures
  – Disinfect all tools used (including shovels, pitch forks, brooms etc)
  – Keep mares that have aborted isolated from the rest of the broodmares

• Vaccination
EHV Summary

- Common virus that can cause three syndromes
  - Respiratory
  - Neurological
  - Abortions in pregnant mares
- Contagious!
- Good biosecurity practices are important
- Vaccine is available
Vesicular Stomatitis

• What is it?
  – Viral infection that causes vesicular (blisters) lesions in and around mouth and/or coronary band of horses

• How do they get it?
  – Vectors, saliva of infected horse

• What does it look like?
  – Blisters on tongue and around mouth. Excessive salivation (drooling) is often present. If coronary bands are affected, lameness is present.
  – Incubation period is from 2-21 days
Vesicular Stomatitis

• Not present in Canada
• Important to be aware of affected States when traveling to the US with your horses
• Currently, Colorado is the only state that has VS restrictions
Questions?