

Equine Herpes Virus (EHV)

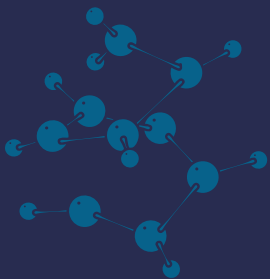
Hambleton
Equine Clinic

What is EHV?

Equine herpes virus is a virus that occurs in equine populations worldwide. The two most common types are EHV-1 and EHV-4.

EHV causes four clinical syndromes:

1. Respiratory
2. Abortion
3. Neonatal foal death
4. Neurological disease



Signs to look for

Respiratory Disease:

Fever
Coughing
Nasal Discharge



Neurological Disease:

Lack of co-ordination of the hind (and occasionally fore) limbs
Urine retention/dribbling - can present as mild colic
Bladder weakness
Recumbency (inability to rise)
Neurological signs may be preceded by fever and respiratory signs.

How it Spreads

Aerosol – most common route

Inhalation of droplets from coughing and snorting
Shedding can last at least a couple of weeks but can persist much longer
Therefore a 28-day isolation period is recommended after diagnosis

Indirect Transmission

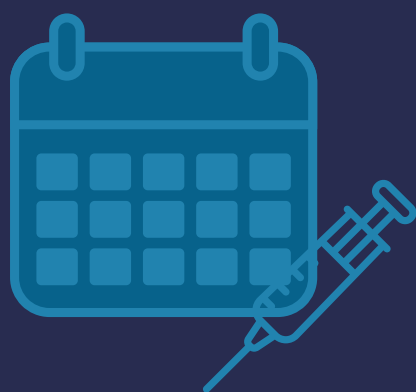
Virus can be live in the environment for a couple of weeks
People, tack, yard equipment can pass the virus between horses

Incubation time

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



Preventative measures



Vaccination if there isn't an outbreak



Don't share water sources away from the yard



Monitor for symptoms



Prevent contact off your yard



Have visitors wash their hands



Disinfect boots and change outer clothing after visiting other yards



Provide each horse with their own equipment



Clean and disinfect equipment and transport after events

If symptoms present



Immediately isolate the affected horse



Call your vet



Close the yard to all horse movements



Monitor all horses on the yard for symptoms