



For Immediate Release
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Equine Infectious Anemia Confirmed in Midland County Horses

AUSTIN, TX – Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) officials confirmed equine infectious anemia (EIA) in seven Quarter Horses on a single Midland County premises. These are the first confirmed cases of EIA in Texas this year.

The horses were confirmed positive after testing was performed to meet regulatory requirements. The premises has been quarantined and will not be released until the TAHC's requirements are met. TAHC staff are working closely with the owner and local veterinarian to monitor potentially exposed horses and implement biosecurity measures.

"These cases are a good reminder that EIA is present in our state, good biosecurity should always be a priority, and the importance of required EIA testing for equine event participation and congregation continues to be invaluable," said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director and State Veterinarian. "Investigation of cases indicate that humans are often playing a role in the transmission of equine infectious anemia in Texas equine. The TAHC encourages strong sanitary practices along with disease education and awareness to help prevent further spread."

EIA is an incurable, infectious viral disease spread through blood-to-blood contact, not through proximity or direct contact. The virus can be transmitted from an infected equine to an uninfected equine by biting flies. Additionally, people can aid in the transmission by using contaminated medical equipment, such as needles, syringes, IV sets and medications. When equipment is contaminated with blood from an infected horse it can spread the disease to healthy, unexposed horses when used again.

The most common clinical sign of acute EIA is fever, which often precedes the development of other signs. In chronic cases, symptoms such as weight loss, weakness, anemia, and swelling of the lower legs, chest and abdomen may occur. Veterinarians and producers play an important role in stopping the spread of EIA and other bloodborne equine diseases by reporting sick equine.

The TAHC would like to remind horse owners that all Texas equine participating in Texas events must have a negative EIA test, performed by a private veterinarian, within the past 12 months. Equine owners who frequently participate in events with equine from other states are encouraged to speak to their veterinarians about [Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection's \(EECVIs\)](#). The TAHC allows veterinarians and horse owners the option of a six-month health certificate, if a current EIA test has been provided.

Horse owners are required to keep the EIA test document or "Coggins papers" and have them available when traveling with horses. Contact your private veterinarian for testing.

Any additional Texas EIA cases this year will be posted on the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) website, www.equinediseasecc.org/alerts/outbreaks.

For more information on EIA please visit www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCFactsheet_EIA.pdf.

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