



For Immediate Release  
June 26, 2026

## Neurologic Form of Equine Herpes Virus Confirmed in a Parker County Equine

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) received confirmation of equine herpes myeloencephalopathy (EHM), the neurologic disease linked to equine herpes virus (EHV-1), in a donkey on June 24, 2026.

The donkey is classified as a rescue animal. At this time, epidemiological investigations indicate exposure does not include large equine events including rodeos. TAHC staff are working closely with the owner and veterinarians to respond to the case, assess the situation further, take measures to protect equine, and prevent further spread of the virus. Exposed animal owners have been notified and are under hold order until further assessment.

Clinical signs of EHM in horses may include: fever of 102.5°F or greater (fever most often comes before neurologic signs), nasal discharge, lack of coordination, hindquarter weakness, leaning or resting against a fence or wall to maintain balance, lethargy, urine dribbling, head tilt, diminished tail tone, and penile paralysis.

It is important to remember that these signs are not specific to EHM and diagnostic testing is required to confirm infection. If you suspect your horse has been exposed to EHV-1, contact your local veterinarian. Additional resources for equine owners can be found here:

- [Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy Fact Sheet](#)
- [Equine Biosecurity Guide](#)

Investigation into the character and epidemiology of this disease is ongoing. Equine owners should overall practice strong biosecurity, monitor their animals vigilantly, prevent exposure to known sick horses, and consult with a veterinarian immediately if signs of EHM are noticed.

The equine industry is encouraged to obtain the latest information on equine diseases nationwide on the [Equine Disease Communication Center \(EDCC\) website](#). Subsequent Texas EHM cases will be posted on the EDCC.

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*The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting [www.tahc.texas.gov](http://www.tahc.texas.gov).*