

Position Statement

Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA - Swamp Fever)

Equine Infectious Anaemia has reappeared as a disease of concern to the equine population in the province of Saskatchewan.

Any acute disease process which is thought to be highly infectious or threatening to the immediate population of horses, or is of public health significance, requires our attention.

In the interest of protecting horses at competitions, boarding and stabling facilities off the owners' premises or in situations where there is a co-mingling of horses, incoming or outgoing, the Health and Welfare Committee of the Saskatchewan Horse Federation strongly recommends the requirement for a negative Coggin's test on each horse attending the related event.

The ideal time for testing is in the time frame of March - May each year (prior to the fly season).

Regular Coggins' testing with elimination or strict quarantine of positive reactors has proven effective in control and/or eradication of the disease. On a State by State basis in the U.S.A., a requirement for a negative Coggin's test for any horse in transport and for horses crossing State lines has virtually eliminated EIA from the horse herd.

Horse owners, lessees, facility operators and competition management have a responsibility to co-operate and partner in a program of control and eradication for this disease. EIA brochures are available free of charge from the SHF office - (306.780.9244) 2205 Victoria Avenue, Regina, SK. S4P 0S4.

January 31, 2012.

Equine Health and Welfare Committee
Saskatchewan Horse Federation Inc.