



**To: Newsroom Directors and Assignment Editors**

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## **Delaware Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) update**

### **Monday, December 15:**

- A private veterinarian reported to State Veterinarian, Dr. Heather Hirst that a horse in her care, on a separate farm, had clinical signs consistent with the neurologic form of EHV-1.
- Dr. Hirst and Bob Moore, DE Department of Agriculture Animal Health Inspector and Supervisor, went to the farm and placed a hold order (stop movement) on the single barn where the case was found.
- Blood/nasal swab samples were collected from the neurologic horse and another barnmate that had shared a trailer and samples were sent to the University of Kentucky (UK) for PCR testing.
- In-depth investigations were initiated by the Delaware Department of Agriculture (DDA) and the Delaware Harness Racing Commission to trace back all movement of the horse and its barnmates.

### **Tuesday December 16:**

- UK reported that the sick horse tested PCR positive for EHV-1 on blood/nasal swab. The barnmate tested negative.
- Blood/nasal swab samples were taken from three other barnmates that had shared equipment with the sick horse and sent to UK.
- Other barnmates were not considered to be at high risk for exposure and will be sampled at a later date.

### **Wednesday, December 17**

- Results are expected from UK tonight, December 17, or tomorrow morning, December 18.
- A quarantine has been placed on the single barn only on the farm that is situated 5-10 miles from the first quarantined barn.
- A single barn was quarantined because adjacent barns on the premises are not considered to be at significant risk for having had contact with the horses of the quarantined barn.
- To date the investigation has not found any epidemiological links between the farms, except that both animals are involved in the harness racing industry.
- The investigation is ongoing and any new links will be reported as they are discovered.
- If anything changes, or if DDA has any reason to suspect that biosecurity protocols are not being respected, it is possible the quarantine will expand to include the whole premises.
- The sick horse is still down today and is not able to rise.

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