

Organisers update on EVH

As you are aware there have been confirmed cases of the EHV1 virus in several horses in Gloucestershire. Two weeks ago we circulated guidance notes which we hope you found useful. The message that we are still receiving from our veterinary advisors is that we are not in a situation whereby shows need to cancel; however horse owners and venues need to take the necessary precautions to prevent further spread.

It is the responsibility of the competitor/horse owner to assess their own situation and perceived risks and make their own choices. Our Role as a governing body and yours as the venue is to provide the facts and put in place preventive measures where necessary.

The incubation period for the Equine Herpes Virus infection is normally up to 10 days and it has been strongly recommended that anyone who has hunted, or may have come in to contact with anyone that has hunted, with the Heythrop, Beaufort or Berkeley since 6th March 2013 DOES NOT travel their horses. If you are in an area where the above may apply then you may wish to notify competitors not to travel to your show.

On the 26th March BD was notified of a further case of EHV-1 in a dressage yard in Aberdeen. There appears to be no clear link with the cases in Gloucestershire. The infected horse did compete at Myerscough Premier League, leaving there on 10th March. Veterinary advice has been sought by BD and any horses exposed to the virus and subsequently infected would be likely to have already been exhibiting symptoms by now.

In order to ensure safety of all horses attending shows, members are recommended to have their animals checked by their own Vet or implement a procedure for carrying out temperature checks prior to travelling. If a horse has a temperature over 38.5 degrees, the animal SHOULD NOT BE travelled. Show Organisers, MAY, turn any horse away should they consider an animal is unwell.

In light of the developments over the last two weeks in an endeavour to reduce risk of contamination we would encourage venues in the Gloucestershire/Aberdeenshire area or close proximity, to put control measures in place. For shows where horses are stabling, all stables should be emptied of bedding and stables be disinfected with a DEFRA approved product between shows and between the transition of horses arriving at a show. Venues are encouraged to have disinfectant foot baths and hand sanitiser available.

The original guidance notes relating to EHV are still available on the home page of the BD website together with a link to the DEFRA approved list of disinfectants.

If you have any concerns regarding EHV please don't hesitate to contact the BD office.

27.03.13