



Animal Health News

Vermont Agency of Agriculture Food & Markets

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Enteric Equine Coronavirus

Information from Cornell University

The Veterinary Support Services group at the Animal Health Diagnostic Center at the School of Veterinary Medicine at Cornell University has recently received several calls regarding a relatively newly recognized illness in horses. Equine enteric coronavirus has been on the rise in recent years in our area of the Northeast and it seems to be most prevalent during the colder months. In 2013, we received 144 samples of which 38 were positive or suspect. We have seen positive samples from several states including New York, Missouri, South Carolina, Connecticut, and Vermont.

Equine enteric coronavirus should be on your differential list for a horse whenever you see a fever (usually less than or equal to 104.0) accompanied by anorexia and lethargy. It is transmitted by the fecal-oral route and signs usually tend to resolve in 1-4 days, although animals can continue shedding for several weeks. For a more information please proceed to our website.

Vermont Large Animal Clinic Equine Enteric Coronavirus Case Summary

Dr. Toby L. Pinn, DVM, DACVIM

During the months of January and February, 2014, Vermont Large Animal Clinic (VLAC) confirmed 4 cases of Equine Enteric Coronavirus in horses in Milton and Waterbury,

Reminder— Check State Import Requirements Before You Send

Due to various disease outbreaks, a number of states have added on restrictions to their import rules for livestock. Please remember to check with the state agriculture agency in the state of destination when you are working with clients to ship livestock interstate. Visit our website for a link to the list of State Animal Health Officials.

Vermont. These cases were confirmed using fecal beta coronavirus PCR and 3 of the cases were treated by VLAC. Three cases occurred at the same boarding facility, including a 15 year-old Quarter Horse mare, 22 year-old Quarter Horse gelding and 20 year-old Thoroughbred gelding. The fourth case was diagnosed at a private barn and involved a 22-month old Missouri Fox Trotter gelding. All cases had similar presenting clinical signs, including mild colic, fever ranging from 103F to 104F, depression and anorexia. Bloodwork in the cases treated by VLAC revealed severe neutropenia and dehydration. One case was hospitalized, while 2 cases were treated on the farm. Treatment included intravenous and enteral fluid therapy, flunixin meglumine as needed to control fevers and intravenous oxytetracycline. Horses remained febrile from 1 to 3 days. Neutropenia and clinical signs of depression and decreased appetite lasted approximately 5 days in all cases.