



Animal Health Alert

March 2021

**UTAH
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD
ANIMAL HEALTH
PROGRAM**

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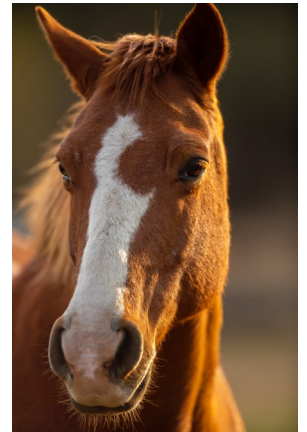
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Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy in Utah

On March 7, 2021, Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) caused by Equine Herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1) was confirmed in a horse here in Utah. This horse attended an event at the Golden Spike Event Center on February 20. A second horse that attended that event also attended the Icebreaker event on March 2 at Golden Spike and was euthanized shortly after. The lab was unable to confirm EHM in the second horse, and the signs of disease in that horse do not completely match the signs of EHM. There is not sufficient evidence to indicate that this disease is widespread at this time, nevertheless, we encourage horse owners with horses that attended either event to closely monitor their horses for signs of EHM.



If your horse was at the barrel race on February 20 or the Icebreaker event on March 2, we strongly encourage you to monitor your horse's temperature twice daily (ideally first thing in the morning and the last thing at night) through March 16. **If your horse has a temperature over 101.5° F or develops neurologic signs, call your veterinarian immediately.** Avoid giving your horse anti-inflammatories such as Equioxx, Bute, or Banamine, as these drugs can hide a fever.

We strongly recommend that all horse owners use caution when attending horse events. For more information on steps you can take to protect your horse while at horse events, [click here](#). We are quickly working to determine if there are more horses infected, and will provide further information as soon as possible.

SIGNS OF EHV-1

- Fever > 101.5°F
- Eye discharge
- Discharge from the nose
- Swollen legs
- Abortion
- Reluctance to rise
- Unsteady gait
- Weakness
- Dribbling urine
- Lack of tail tone

**Report any of these signs to
your veterinarian.**