

EHV-1:

Many of you are justifiably concerned with the reported cases of Equine Herpes Virus that have occurred and been documented in several horses that attended the NCHA Western National Championships in Ogden, Utah April 29 - May 8. The virus can be contagious among horses, but is NOT transmittable to humans. While Green Country Chapter of Oklahoma Dressage Society does not want to unnecessarily alarm horse owners, we do want you to be armed with factual information so you can make informed decisions on this matter regarding your personal horses.

From The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry: Horse owners should be cognizant of the situation but also be aware of the facts regarding the virus. The EHV outbreak has only affected horses attending two events and horses directly exposed to that group upon returning home. The two events are the NCHA Western National Championship in Utah and the Kern County Cutting Horse Event in California. Affected and exposed horses in all states are under state quarantine or movement restrictions.

Acting State Veterinarian, Dr. Michael Herrin recommends horse owners and event managers remain at a heightened level of awareness, consider the current facts of the situation, and make an informed decision based upon actual risk. Events in Oklahoma that host horses of an unrelated type have no increased risk of disease exposure now than before this incident began. There have been no changes in import regulations and no recommended event cancellations issued by the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry (ODAFF).

The Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food, and Forestry encourages horse owners to implement and practice proper preventative measures. ODAFF also encourages horse owners to consult their local veterinarian for review and advice on an appropriate vaccination schedules for EHV.

Precautionary Measures Taken by Claremore Expo Center: The stalls and barn area have been disinfected with a bleach/water solution after every event within the past 30 days. The whole barn area will be disinfected one additional time before our arrival for the Green Country Dressage Classic I & II.

Further information on EHV can be found at the Texas Animal Health Commission and the Oklahoma Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry websites. GCC of OSD encourages you to visit these sites.

<http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/>

<http://www.oda.state.ok.us/>

Tips to help prevent the spread of EHV-1 include:

- **Don't share equipment among horses. The virus can be spread through objects such as water, feed buckets or bridles.**
- **Prevent spreading the virus from horse to horse via hands and clothing. People should thoroughly wash hands after handling one horse and before handling another.**
- **GCC of ODS would like you to spend a few minutes reviewing this link:**
http://www.tahc.state.tx.us/animal_health/equine/EHV1BiosecurityMeasures.pdf

This update will be the FINAL EHV-1 report unless new situations arise.