



As most of you are aware, the disease Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) has become a major concern to the equine reproduction industry. We are sending this information page to make everyone aware of the disease and our recommendations for prevention and vaccination.

What is EVA?

EVA is a disease that is usually not deadly to adult horses, but can and does cause abortion in pregnant mares. The most serious concerns for infection are associated with stallions and pregnant mares or horses that will come in contact with them. The disease is transmitted via the respiratory tract of all horse or through the semen of an infected or carrier stallion. At breeding the semen of this stallion will shed the virus to the receiving mare. She can then pass the virus through the respiratory tract (nose to nose contact or airborne) to other horses. Horses exposed and who recover from the virus will naturally develop immunity, but during the time of the illness have the ability to infect any horse that they may come in contact with. Pregnant mares are in danger because of the high probability of abortion. Infected stallions will shed the virus in their semen indefinitely from the time they are exposed. Antibiotics used in extenders or processing such as cooling or freezing the semen are not effective in destroying the virus.

Prevention

Vaccination is the key to prevention in this disease, and we strongly urge all mare and stallion owners to vaccinate their breeding herd. A vaccine is available, but at this time is manufactured in limited supplies.

Vaccination

All stallions should be tested for EVA prior to vaccination to insure they have a negative titer prior to the vaccination. Once a horse has been exposed to the virus or has been vaccinated, it will always show a positive EVA titer if a future test is performed. You should maintain a copy of this test and vaccination record as a part of the horse's permanent medical history. Exposure to vaccination will not transmit the disease through the semen. All mares need to be vaccinated, but it is not necessary to have an EVA test prior to vaccination. The vaccine is not cleared for use in pregnant mares, but we have administered it to our mares here at Timber Creek Veterinary Hospital without complications. We suggest you consult your veterinarian prior to using this product in pregnant mares. It is important to note that this is a modified live vaccine and although it does not cause the disease, it can seroconvert (cause a positive EVA titer) any animal that comes in contact which is not vaccinated. All horses should be quarantined for 3 weeks after vaccination to prevent this from happening. As with any vaccine, horses may become listless after vaccination.

Our Facility

We, like many other breeding farms, require all horses entering our facility be vaccinated 3 weeks prior to their arrival. Proof of vaccination signed by your veterinarian must be presented prior to allowing entry to our stabling facilities. This is for the protection of your horse as well as others. Please call us if you have any questions or if you need additional information and vaccination protocols specific for your horse. We strive each and every day to keep you informed and your horses healthy.

Gregg O. Veneklasen, DVM