



## **EHV-1 Outbreak Update – March 11, 2022**

Nellie Gail Ranch Homeowners,

The health and safety of horses throughout the Nellie Gail Ranch community and Equestrian Center is a top priority. The Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Committee has reviewed the increase of EHV-1 outbreaks in Orange County and adopted a number of safety protocols at our Equestrian Center to reduce risk of exposure. We wanted to share with you information regarding the extent of this outbreak, recommendations you may want to implement to protect your horses and steps we have taken at our Equestrian Center.

There have been three outbreaks in San Juan Capistrano resulting in four horses being euthanized and the state has placed Rio Vista Stables, Sycamore Trails Stables and Rancho Sierra Vista Equestrian Center under quarantine.

### **EHV-1 Outbreak Update from CDFA as of March 10, 2022**

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal\\_health/equine\\_herpes\\_virus.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/animal_health/equine_herpes_virus.html)

#### **Third EHV-1 Quarantine in Orange County**

**March 9, 2022:** One (1) additional horse on the premises displaying fever was confirmed positive for EHV-1 on March 9th. To date, there have been one (1) confirmed EHM case (EHV-1 infection with neurological signs) and six (6) positive EHV-1 fever-only or mild clinical cases associated with this incident. CDFA is actively monitoring the situation.

**March 8, 2022:** Three (3) additional horses on the premises displaying fever or mild clinical signs were confirmed positive for EHV-1 on March 8th. To date, there have been one (1) confirmed EHM case (EHV-1 infection with neurological signs) and five (5) positive EHV-1 fever-only or mild clinical cases associated with this incident.

**March 4, 2022:** A 10-year-old Warmblood gelding in Orange county displaying neurological signs was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) secondary to equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain) on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Febrile horses were reported on the premises prior to this EHM case confirmation, including two (2) horses that tested positive for EHV-1. CDFA has been onsite and will quarantine any exposed cohorts. There is no known epidemiological link to any other current EHM incidents at an event premises.

#### **Second EHV-1 Quarantine in Orange County**

**March 8, 2022:** Two (2) additional horses on the premises displaying fever or mild clinical signs were confirmed positive for EHV-1 on March 8th. To date, there have been two (2) confirmed EHM cases (EHV-1 infection with neurological signs) and ten (10) positive EHV-1 fever-only or mild clinical cases associated with this incident. CDFA is actively monitoring the situation.

**March 5, 2022:** Two (2) additional horses on the premises displaying fever or mild clinical signs were confirmed positive for EHV-1 on March 5th. To date, there have been two (2) confirmed EHM cases (EHV-1 infection with neurological signs) and eight (8) positive EHV-1 fever-only or mild clinical cases associated with this incident.

**March 3, 2022:** A 22-year-old Thoroughbred gelding in Orange county displaying neurological signs starting on February 28<sup>th</sup> was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) secondary to equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain) on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Another horse on the premises, a 22-year-old Warmblood gelding displaying neurological signs starting on March 1<sup>st</sup> was confirmed positive for EHM secondary to EHV-1 on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both geldings were euthanized due to severity of clinical signs.

### **First EHV-1 Quarantine in Orange County**

**March 8, 2022:** No additional cases or clinical signs have been reported. CDFA continues to monitor the situation.

**March 5, 2022:** One (1) additional horse on this premises, a 14-year-old Warmblood gelding, displayed neurological signs and was euthanized on March 2nd, and was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) secondary to equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain) on necropsy on March 5th. To date, there have been two (2) confirmed EHM cases (EHV-1 infection with neurological signs) and eighteen (18) positive EHV-1 fever-only cases associated with this incident. CDFA is actively monitoring the situation.

**March 3, 2022:** Two (2) additional horses on this premises have been confirmed positive for EHV-1. Both of these positive horses displayed fever only and no neurological signs. CDFA continues to monitor the situation. To date, there have been one (1) confirmed EHM case (EHV-1 infection with neurological signs) and eighteen (18) positive EHV-1 fever-only cases associated with this incident.

**March 2, 2022:** Two (2) additional horses on this premises have been confirmed positive for EHV-1. Both of these positive horses displayed fever only and no neurological signs. CDFA continues to monitor the situation. To date, there have been one (1) confirmed EHM case (EHV-1 infection with neurological signs) and sixteen (16) positive EHV-1 fever-only cases associated with this incident.

**March 1, 2022:** Six (6) additional horses on this premises have been confirmed positive for EHV-1. All of these positive horses displayed fever only and no neurological signs.

**February 28, 2022:** Two (2) additional horses on this premises have been confirmed positive for EHV-1 with five (5) additional presumptive positive horses pending confirmation. All of these positive horses displayed fever only and no neurological signs.

**February 24, 2022:** A 16-year-old Warmblood mare in Orange county displaying neurological signs on February 22<sup>nd</sup> was confirmed positive for Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) secondary to equine herpesvirus-1 (EHV-1 non-neuropathogenic strain) on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The horse was euthanized due to severity of clinical signs. Additionally, a 10-year-old Warmblood gelding on the same premises displaying fever only with no neurological signs was confirmed positive for EHV-1 on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The febrile gelding was part of a cohort of horses that attended the event premises in Riverside county that has an active EHM incident, and

the neurological mare was exposed to the cohort of horses returning to the home premises from the event in Riverside County. Eighty-six (86) exposed horses on the home premises have been isolated and quarantined.

**Safety Precautions Nellie Gail Ranch Horse Owners / Private Boarders May Take:**

**If you have private boarders on your property, please pass this information on to them.**

1. Monitor your horse for fever, nasal discharge or labored breathing. Contact a veterinarian to report any of these symptoms.
2. For the duration of this outbreak do not let your horse use a shared water source. Shared water sources are a source of exposure.
3. Do not allow your horse to nuzzle other horses along trails or in Association arenas.
4. Avoid to the extent possible shared use of the Association arenas and round pens with other horses.
5. Require any stable hand, instructor or caregiver who works at your stables or with your horse to have a complete change of clothes, and hats, prior to coming to your stables if they have interacted with any other horses anywhere else. Riding boots or footwear must also be sanitized.
6. If you use trainers who are actively caring for horses at one of the quarantined centers, consider suspending your training until the outbreak is over.

**The Nellie Gail Ranch Equestrian Center is taking the following additional precautions:**

1. Nellie Gail Ranch trail use is suspended for use by Equestrian Center horses. The reason for our suspension is to ensure horses at the Equestrian Center do not share water sources or come in contact with other horses boarding along the 25 mile trail system. We will re-evaluate after two weeks.
2. Use of Dapple Grey Arena, Moulton Arena and Cabot Arena is suspended for use by Equestrian Center horses. We will re-evaluate after two weeks.
3. We are not taking new borders at the Equestrian Center until the outbreak has been resolved.
4. Farrier visits are closely monitored and we require their equipment and work area to be sanitized before and after service.
5. No guest visitors are allowed in stables or stable area. We have placed signs at all entries. Yellow chain link barriers have been placed at normal pedestrian access points as a deterrent.

**Additional Resources:**

<https://equinediseasecc.org/Content/ContentDocs/DiseaseFactsheet-EHM.pdf>

<https://equinediseasecc.org/>