



NEBRASKA EQUINE VETERINARY CLINIC

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Vesicular Stomatitis

■ What is vesicular Stomatitis?

- Vesicular Stomatitis is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. In rare occasions humans become infected with the disease after handling infected animals.



■ Why are we concerned about vesicular Stomatitis?

- Vesicular Stomatitis in itself does not generally cause animals to die or become severely sick but its outward symptoms mimic a different disease called foot and mouth disease, a foreign animal disease of cloven-hoofed animals that was eradicated from the United States in 1929. If foot and mouth disease was reintroduced into the United States there would be huge negative economic impact to the livestock industry.

■ What are the clinical symptoms?

- The clinical signs of Vesicular Stomatitis in horses include fever and blisters on the tongue, lips and coronary bands. The blisters are so painful that the horse may refuse to eat, develop excessive salivation or become lame if the coronary band is affected. The incubation period ranges from 2 to 21 days.



■ How is it transmitted?

- How Vesicular Stomatitis spreads is not fully understood but it is believed to be transmitted by arthropods such as flies, mosquitoes and midges. Horses can spread the virus if the saliva from the ruptured blisters contaminates common areas such as water and feed buckets. Affected horses may take seven to 14 days to recover and can suffer weight loss from the inability to eat well.

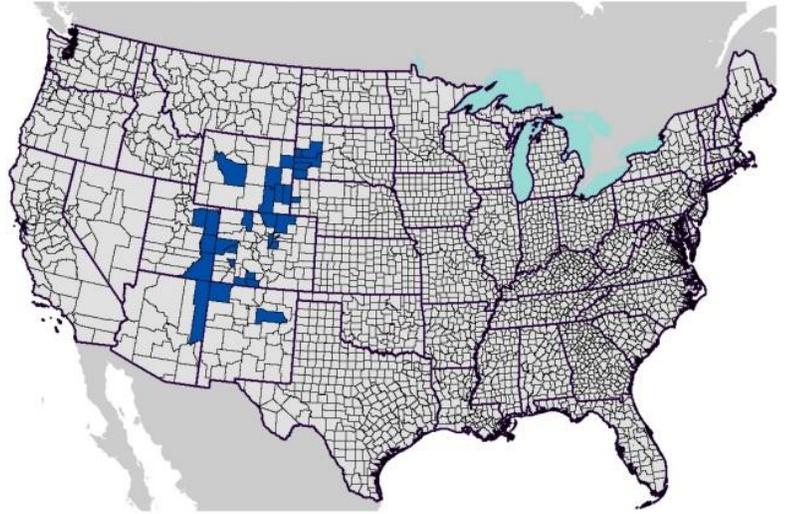
■ Controlling an Outbreak

- There is not a specific cure for the disease. If a horse has symptoms consistent with the disease the veterinarian must contact the State Veterinarian or the USDA, APHIS immediately. At that time, a blood sample and an oral swab are collected from each suspect animal and the premises are quarantined pending laboratory confirmation of the disease. Farms that have confirmed cases of VS are quarantined for 30 days after all clinical signs have resolved. All sick horses should be isolated from the healthy horses.

■ Summary of the current Outbreak

- Since the start of the outbreak April 29, 2015, **four hundred forty-six (446)** VS-affected premises (New Jersey serotype) have been identified and quarantined in 8 states (Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, and Wyoming).
- The Nebraska Department of Agriculture (NDA) in Lincoln has confirmed Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) in Panhandle horses. State Veterinarian Dr. Dennis Hughes said NDA has confirmed a total of five cases. Four of those cases are in Scotts Bluff County and one is in Sioux County. Five additional cases are being investigated with test results pending, including four in Scotts Bluff County and a fifth in Lincoln County.
- Currently, there are **ninety (90)** affected premises remaining under quarantine in 7 states (Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, South Dakota, Utah, and Wyoming).
- Additional requirements pertaining to the Aksarben Horse Show scheduled for this weekend at the Lancaster Event Center in Lincoln, and the Aksarben Stock Show and Rodeo, scheduled for Sept. 24-27, in Omaha, have agreed to put in place new requirements for horse and cattle exhibitors. Horses arriving at the shows from anywhere within Nebraska will need to have seen a veterinarian within 48 hours. The 48-hour rule also will apply to any cattle coming to the show from the Nebraska Panhandle counties.

Map 1. VSV Current: Counties with Current Premises Quarantined



New Confirmed/Suspect Premises

Since the last situation report (9/11/15), the following **twenty-nine (29) new VSV-confirmed (New Jersey serotype) and/or suspect premises** have been identified and quarantined:

■ Should I be concerned as a horse owner?

- Currently in our practice area eastern Nebraska and western Iowa the risk is low, but it may affect travel with your horse with respect to time restrictions placed on health certificates. Any questions please call our office.