ABNORMAL EQUINE HEALTH EVENTS AT INTERNATIONAL IMPORT QUARANTINE FACILITIES

USAHA COMMITTEE ON EQUINE WORKING GROUP

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WORKING GROUP PURPOSE

• Identify and evaluate disease risks and concerns surrounding international equine importation

• Make recommendations to improve the process of identifying potentially sick or exposed equine

• Decrease disease spread

• Present findings to USAHA COE and propose a Resolution
WORKING OBJECTIVES

• Document Review
  • The Standard Operating Procedures for USDA-APHIS-VS Miami Animal Import Center (Sick Horse Protocol)
  • The Agreement Between Private Quarantine Facilities and USDA-APHIS-VS (Private Quarantine Agreement).

• Data Review
  • USDA APHIS Animal Import Center Sick Horse Report
DOCUMENT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

• The Standard Operating Procedures for USDA-APHIS-VS Miami Animal Import Center
  • “Sick Horse” = Horse with an abnormal health event
    • Contagious, Non-Contagious, Other
    • Timely notification and consultation with an accredited veterinarian
    • If contagious or infectious, immediate movement to a designated isolation area with timely diagnostics/referral
  • Notification to SAHO in state of destination and current state
  • Identification of exposed cohorts
DOCUMENT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

• The Standard Operating Procedures for USDA-APHIS-VS Miami Animal Import Center
  • Horse with an abnormal health event- easy referral to an approved equine hospital
  • Require 3 normal rectal temperatures (<101.5F) in a 48 hr period
  • “Report of Abnormal Health Event in a USDA Quarantine”
  • “Compliance Agreement for Potentially Exposed and/or Contagious Imported Horses”
"REPORT OF ABNORMAL HEALTH EVENT IN A USDA QUARANTINE"
“COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT FOR CLINICAL OR POTENTIALLY EXPOSED IMPORTED HORSES”
“COMPLIANCE AGREEMENT FOR CLINICAL OR POTENTIALLY EXPOSED IMPORTED HORSES”

Compliance Agreement for Potentially Exposed Imported Horse

(Agreement to be completed for any horse potentially exposed to a horse in quarantine displaying clinical signs)

Animal Identification:

Name: ___________________________  Breed: ___________________________  Sex: ___________________________  Age: ___________________________
Origin Country: ___________________________  Import Date: ___________________________

On XXXXX (date) the above animal was exposed to a horse displaying XXXX (clinical signs) at the XXXX USDA Import Quarantine. The horse listed above has tested negative for required import testing and meets import quarantine release parameters. Due to potential exposure the displayed clinical signs, the horse listed above is being released under the conditions of this compliance agreement.

The animal listed above is permitted to move to the following destination:

(Address of Animal Destination)

The veterinarian responsible for care of this animal at the destination is XXXX (name) at XXXX (address) and can be contacted at XXX (phone number)/XXXX (email address).

Housing Agreement for a minimum of 3 days post release

4. The above listed equine will be moved directly from the USDA Import Quarantine to the above listed address. If the animal is not transported to this address, USDA will be provided a new location within 12 hours of arrival at new destination.
5. The equine will be isolated on the premises away from all other horses.
6. The equine will be managed separately, and equipment not shared.

Health Monitoring Agreement for a minimum of 3 days post release

5. The temperature of the horse will be taken and recorded twice daily. Any temperature above 101.5°F will be reported to the veterinarian listed above.
6. If horse displays clinical signs such as nasal discharge, cough, prolonged diarrhea, abnormal gait, abnormal stance, or fever, the veterinarian listed above will be contacted to examine the horse.
7. The veterinarian shall perform diagnostic testing when necessary to determine cause of clinical signs. If an infectious disease is diagnosed the veterinarian shall email summary of clinical examination and laboratory reports confirming infectious disease to USDA at XXXXXX@USDA.xxx.
8. A horse displaying a fever or clinical signs is restricted to premises and will only be transported to veterinary clinic for veterinary care.

I, __________ (Owner/agent) have read and understand the above compliance agreement for the above listed equine. I, __________ (owner/agent) hereby agree to abide by the parameters listed above for a minimum of 7 days post release from Import Quarantine.

__________________________  ___________________________
Owner/Agent Signature  Date

__________________________  ___________________________
USDA Representative Signature  Date

Cc: State Animal Health Official
DOCUMENT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Agreement Between Private Quarantine Facilities and USDA-APHIS-VS
  - Facility Owner Agreement:
    - Quantify “adequate personnel”
    - Maintain a minimal daily assessment log for each horse
    - Inspections of all hay and feed sources with log
    - Waste water risk analysis
    - Report unauthorized entry or escapees to APHIS representatives immediately
  - Accredited Veterinarian emergency access
  - Emergency response plan
DOCUMENT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- The Agreement Between Private Quarantine Facilities and USDA-APHIS-VS
  - APHIS Agreement:
    - Timely alert to SAHO for all suspected communicable or infectious diseases
    - Retain horses with clinical signs and/or positive diagnostic testing consistent with communicable or infectious diseases
    - Immediate report to SAHO if suspicion of reportable disease
      - VS 1-27
      - Medical records, test results, treatment records, cohorts
DOCUMENT REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Data Review
  - Collect, maintain, and distribute, as necessary, data for horses with abnormal health events (and cohorts) to include:
    - Quarantine location
    - Broker
    - Arrival Date
    - Country of Origin
    - Horse ID (MC number and name)
    - Health Observations
    - Diagnostics Testing with Results
    - Destination Address
    - Result (release, euthanasia/death, referral)
RESOLUTION

UNITED STATES ANIMAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION
October 24-30, 2019; Providence, Rhode Island

RESOLUTION

SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

SUBJECT MATTER: ABNORMAL EQUINE HEALTH EVENTS AT INTERNATIONAL IMPORT QUARANTINE FACILITIES

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

The recent closure of the United States Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Miami Animal Import Center, in conjunction with previous disease outbreaks associated with imported horses, have raised concerns amongst animal health officials and the industry overall. Notably, between November 2018 and April 2019, the USDA identified over 200 sick horses imported from the European Union. Management of imported horses displaying signs of ill health at an Animal Import Quarantine facility is critical for protecting the health of the United States equine population.
RECOMMENDATION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) to take the following actions at all International Animal Import Quarantine Facilities:

1) To develop standard operating procedures for (import) quarantine facility staff and veterinarians to identify, investigate, document, report and track cases of abnormal equine health events.

2) To develop a standardized electronic system to consistently and uniformly record details of each abnormal health event which should minimally include vital signs, physical exam findings, date and time of examination.

3) To identify abnormal health events/parameters in equines, and conduct further assessment to classify such as contagious, non-contagious, or other.
4) To adopt a proven system to accurately evaluate each equine displaying clinical signs of disease, to clinically evaluate each case of a potentially infectious disease, to identify the infectious agent, and determine the possible risk of exposure to other imported horses. Protocols should include diagnostic testing at owner/agent’s expense, based on the syndromic clinical presentation.

5) To notify State Animal Health Officials in both the state of destination and the state in which the horse is currently located of any abnormal horse health events identified and classified as possibly infectious. The notification should include any potentially exposed cohorts with report prior to release from quarantine.

6) To modify VS 17-30 such that it documents the potential risk of exposure to infectious disease for any equids associated with the abnormal health event.
RESOLUTION

7) To develop and implement a compliance agreement between owners/agents and the USDA that includes recommended biosecurity measures for destination premises.

8) To track all Abnormal Health Events for equids being imported into the United States and report such events to equine stakeholders if requested or applicable.
THANK YOU! & QUESTIONS