
RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15

Approved

SOURCE:

COMMITTEE ON EQUINE

SUBJECT MATTER:

Contagious Equine Metritis Test Result Reporting

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

During post-import quarantine for contagious equine metritis (CEM), complement fixation (CF) testing is required for all imported mares and test mares bred to imported stallions. The CEM CF testing of test mares is the last step in the quarantine procedures for imported stallions, and receipt of official CF results is often the last requirement for the release of imported stallions from quarantine.

Beginning in 2021, the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Veterinary Services Laboratory began releasing unofficial preliminary results, watermarked as "Preliminary Results" to CEM facility owners at their request. These preliminary results are released manually by laboratory staff directly to facility owners, and the inclusion of state animal health officials (SAHOs) has been inconsistent, leading to regulated facilities having access to results prior to the regulatory officials responsible for oversight of the quarantine process, as well as results being sent by regulated facilities to SAHOs outside of normal channels.

In some instances, preliminary release of results has led to pressure on SAHOs to release stallion quarantines prior to their receipt of official CF results. The release of preliminary results has also been inconsistent among facilities and SAHOs, leading to differences among facilities in different states, based on how SAHOs release quarantines on imported horses. Only official complete results should be utilized for quarantine release, thus making preliminary negative results unnecessary.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services, National Veterinary Services Laboratory to only release test results required during post-import quarantine for contagious equine metritis in their final format, through official release channels.

INTERIM RESPONSE:

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Veterinary Services (VS) recognizes the concerns of the United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) and appreciates the opportunity to respond.

The timely release of preliminary and partial reports has been instrumental in expediting the release of horses from import equine quarantine. However, APHIS acknowledges the request on this resolution and will cease offering preliminary CEM Complement Fixation testing reporting, releasing final reports upon full NVSL review. APHIS has discussed this change on CEM Coordination Calls with affected State Animal Health Officials.