

Kentucky State Veterinarian of Testing Requirements for Equine Piroplasmosis American Quarter Horse Racing at Red Mile on July 16-17, 2010

We now know that Equine Piroplasmosis has a far greater prevalence among the United States horse population than previously thought; and that a significant segment of the racing Quarter Horse population has a serious prevalence of disease. The current investigative data does, for multiple reasons, impel us to require the testing for Equine Piroplasmosis. The importance of knowing each animal's testing status prior to allowing them onto the grounds will help us better insure the health safety of all horses.

Therefore, the Kentucky State Veterinarians Office and the Kentucky Horse Racing Commission will be requiring all horses coming onto the grounds of the Red Mile racetrack during the time of the summer Quarter Horse meet be tested negative for Equine Piroplasmosis. This testing requirement includes all horses destined to the Red Mile during the time of the meet regardless of their intent to race or not.

Specifically: In addition to the normal and routine health requirements established by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the Kentucky State Veterinarians Office is directing that each horse be tested by c-ELISA for both Theileria equi and Babesia caballi. The tests shall be reported from samples collected from each of the horses seeking entrance onto the grounds. The test samples should be collected immediately from each horse so that test results are available preceding the entry of these horses into the state of Kentucky and arrival at the Red Mile. Horses currently stabled outside of Kentucky will not be provided the opportunity to test upon arrival in Kentucky. For Quarter Horses currently stabled in Kentucky, the test samples should also be collected immediately from each horse so the test results are available preceding the arrival of these horses at the Red Mile

In addition to the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, IA, USDA has now approved a number of state and university laboratories to conduct the Equine Piroplasmosis testing. Both the University of Kentucky's Livestock Disease Diagnostic Center in Lexington and Murray State University's Breathitt Veterinary Center in Hopkinsville have both been approved by USDA to offer the testing. Veterinarians submitting the serum for testing may want to coordinate the submission of the samples through the USDA's Area Veterinary Services office in the state where the horse is stabled. A listing of these offices can be found at:
www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/area_offices/.

Horses entering Kentucky and unable to provide proof of having been tested with negative results will be disallowed entry onto the grounds and declared by the Kentucky State Veterinarians Office as being ineligible to compete at the 2010 Quarter Horse Race meet at the Red Mile in Lexington, Kentucky.

In the event individuals planning to come and participate in the races this summer have questions relative to the 'what if' a horse test positive, Rusty Ford with the Kentucky State Veterinarians Office is available to answer questions, however, out-of-state horsemen should contact their state veterinarian's office. A listing of the contact information for each State Veterinarians Office can be found at www.usaha.org/links.shtml#state.

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