

The Connecticut Horse Council, Inc.
EHV Alert #6 March 6th 2007

For Immediate Release:

Quarantines lifted in Connecticut

As most horse owners in Connecticut are now aware, there has been an ongoing outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) in other states in recent months, most notably in Florida and California. On December 24 2006, a horse at Fairfield Equine Associates in Newtown Connecticut also tested positive for the disease.

On January 9 2007, EHV was detected in horses at the University of Connecticut (UConn). As a result, the University quarantined its herd of 80 horses, and instituted biosecurity procedures.

Due to the outbreak on the UConn Campus, a decision was made on January 10, 2007 to cancel the Horse Symposium, scheduled to be held at UConn on March 24 & 25 2007. A Conference on Equine Health and Management on Saturday, March 24, from 10 AM - 4 PM will take place instead.

CHC has been closely monitoring this issue in order to keep our members informed. We are happy to report that the quarantine was subsequently lifted at Fairfield Equine Associates and they reopened for business on January 22, 2007.

We are also pleased to report that as of March 5, 2007 the Quarantine at the University of Connecticut has been lifted. State Veterinarian Dr. Mary Jane Lis released the herd from quarantine after follow up testing indicated all of the exposed horses were negative and not contagious. Originally, twenty-three horses within the herd had shown clinical signs of equine herpes infection. Of those, five had exhibited neurological signs of the disease.

CHC confirmed with Dr. Lis today that currently, no quarantines remain in effect for EHV in Connecticut.

CHC takes all issues regarding horse health very seriously, and we will continue to stay in communication with the Connecticut state veterinarian and the Connecticut Veterinary Medical Association (CVMA). As information becomes available, we will make every effort to keep our members informed. Please note that this release should not be construed as veterinary advice. For individual veterinary questions and/or risk assessment, you should speak to your veterinarian. For more information about this release or for current updates, please visit the Connecticut Horse Council, Inc. website at www.cthorsecouncil.org or contact CHC President Amy Stegall president@cthorsecouncil.org or CHC Chairman Dr. Stewart Beckett chip@beckettvet.com For information about the UConn conference please visit www.canr.uconn.edu/ansci/equine/cehm.htm