

FONNER PARK RACETRACK, GRAND ISLAND, NE

POLICY REGARDING EHV-1 EQUINE HERPESVIRUS

Due to the serious nature of the neurologic strain of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV-1) at racetracks in the United States, the following policy has been adopted by Fonner Park. This policy has been developed in order to safeguard the welfare of horses participating at Fonner Park.

ATTENTION HORSEMEN:

Prior to entry to Fonner Park, a current Health Certificate (issued within 30 days of arrival) is required. All horses entering the grounds must have been vaccinated with a USDA approved virus vaccine for EHV-1 not less than 14 days and not more than 60 days prior to date of entry to Fonner Park. It is highly recommended horsemen keep every horse that is admitted to Fonner Park on a 90 day booster schedule. All out of state horses must have a negative Coggins test.

Until further notice, no horses will be admitted on the grounds of Fonner Park if they are coming from a county with a facility or racetrack that is under quarantine for the EHV-1 Equine Herpesvirus, or if they are coming from a county adjacent to a county where quarantine has been implemented.

Biosecurity means doing everything you can to reduce the chances of an infectious disease being carried onto your farm by people, animals, equipment or vehicles either accidentally or on purpose. Anything that touches an infected horse or sheds secretions from sick horses has the potential to transfer pathogens to other horses. You are the best protection your horses have. EHV-1 is contagious and spread by direct horse-to-horse contact via the respiratory tract through nasal secretions. It is important to know that this disease can also be spread indirectly through contact with physical objects contaminated with the virus:

- Human contaminated hands or clothing**
- Contaminated equipment and tack**
- Contaminated trailers used for transporting horses**
- Contaminated wipe rags or other grooming equipment**
- Contaminated feed and water buckets**

The virus is estimated to be viable for up to 7 days in the environment under normal circumstances, but may remain alive for a maximum of one month under perfect environmental conditions. Most important is to first clean equipment and horse housing areas. *(Please Note: It is really important to wash and rinse where you can prior to applying disinfectants.)* By cleaning first, this allows for removal of organic material which makes the disinfectants more effective. After this cleaning, follow with a disinfection process. The virus is easily killed in the environment by most disinfectants. Conventional disinfectants and detergents are the best. It is important

to perform hand hygiene (wash hands with soap and dry thoroughly or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer) when moving between horses that are grouped separately to avoid spreading pathogens that may contaminate your hands.

If you handle a horse with EHV-1 and don't wash your hands or change clothing, the infection may be transmitted to other horses. A solution of 1 part chlorine bleach to 10 parts water is effective for decontaminating equipment and environment. (Washing clothing in hot water with detergent and drying in a dryer is adequate and less damaging to clothing.)

All trainers and horse haulers are urged to take extreme caution when transporting horses, to properly disinfect and sanitize their trailers if there is any chance they may have transported an exposed horse.

**For Additional Information, please contact:
Fonner Park Racing Office
308-382-8345**