

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT EQUINE PIROPLASMOSIS

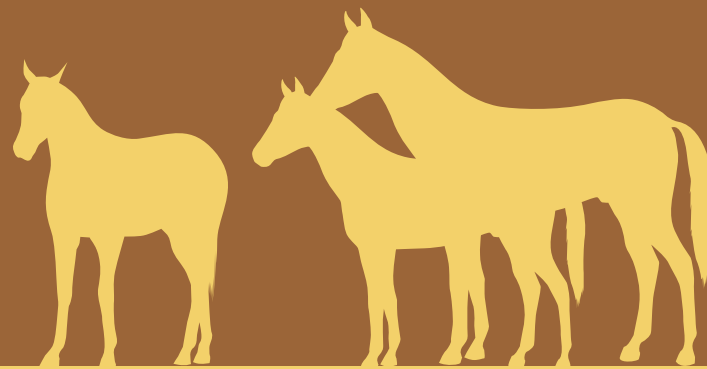
For more information on Canada's approach to
equine piroplasmosis, call the CFIA at

1-800-442-2342
or visit www.inspection.gc.ca



Canadian Food
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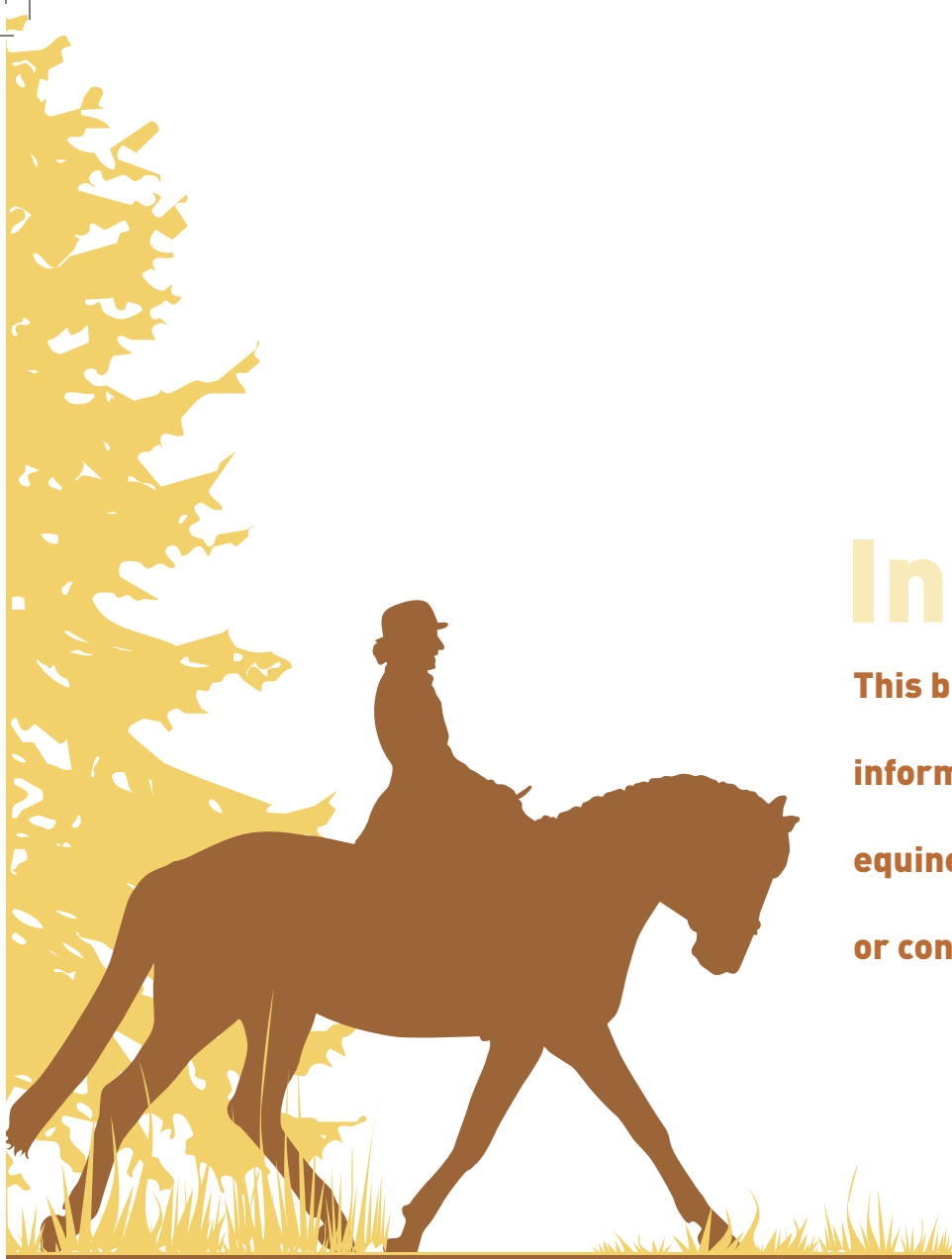
Agence canadienne
d'inspection des aliments



Equine Piroplasmosis

What to expect if your animals may be infected

Canada 



Introduction

This brochure provides you with information about what happens if equine piroplasmosis is suspected or confirmed in your horse.



About equine piroplasmosis

Equine piroplasmosis is caused by a parasitic infection that is carried by blood. This disease affects horses, donkeys, mules and zebras. Infected animals pose no risk to humans.

The infection is primarily spread by ticks, but can also be passed from horse to horse through contaminated needles, syringes and other veterinary equipment. Pregnant mares can also transfer the infection to their foals in utero.

Carriers of the infection can appear completely normal, but may still pose a risk to other horses. Blood tests are required for a diagnosis.

In Canada, equine piroplasmosis is a “federally reportable disease.” This means that all suspected cases must be reported to the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) for immediate investigation.

Signs of infection include

- anemia
- fever
- increased respiratory and heart rate
- low platelet counts
- rough coat
- weakness or lack of appetite
- yellow mucous membranes (jaundice)
- colic
- constipation

There are no drugs approved in Canada for the treatment of equine piroplasmosis. A vaccine to prevent disease is not available.

Equine piroplasmosis control

Horses that are imported from countries where equine piroplasmosis is endemic are subject to testing before and after entering Canada.

The CFIA takes immediate disease control actions in response to equine piroplasmosis. While all disease situations are different, the steps involved in responding to a suspect case of equine piroplasmosis may include

- quarantine
- investigation
- humane destruction and disposal
- other appropriate measures as determined by the CFIA

Precautionary Quarantine

If equine piroplasmosis is suspected in any of your horses, a CFIA staff member (usually the district veterinarian) will visit the farm to meet with you. A precautionary quarantine may be placed on the premises, and you will receive a copy of the conditions of the quarantine. The CFIA representative will also answer any questions you may have.

Quarantines are necessary to control the potential spread of disease. Under a quarantine, no horses are allowed to enter or leave the property, unless their movement is licensed by the CFIA.



While the property is under quarantine, you must

- adhere to any restrictions placed on the movement of horses on and off the property
- maintain appropriate hygienic measures to prevent the spread of disease
- report any illnesses or deaths

Investigation

If equine piroplasmosis is confirmed, the CFIA will review your farm records to identify any other horses that may be at risk of infection. To help CFIA staff in their investigation, you may be asked to provide

- purchase, sale and show/racing records
- veterinary records and laboratory reports
- a detailed description of farm/stable management practices
- a map of the farm/stable
- contact information for your veterinary practitioner

All other exposed horses will also be tested as part of the investigation and animal health disease control response.

Your cooperation is critical to the success of the investigation and ultimately to the control of this disease.

Destruction and disposal

Horses that test positive for equine piroplasmosis can remain carriers of the infection for life. In an effort to eradicate equine piroplasmosis, the CFIA may order the infected animal destroyed.

The cost of destruction and disposal of the animal may be covered by the CFIA.

Cleaning and Disinfection

It is important to clean and disinfect tools and equipment that may have been exposed to infected animals.

The process for cleaning and disinfection may include

- disposing of potentially contaminated materials
- cleaning and disinfecting tools and equipment

Removal of Quarantine

The CFIA will conduct a full animal health disease investigation to determine when the quarantine may be removed.

Confidentiality

As directed by the *Privacy Act* and other federal statutes, the CFIA is required to protect private information collected from you. Any information you provide during a disease response situation is treated as confidential, unless otherwise indicated.

Compensation

Under the *Health of Animals Act*, the CFIA may compensate owners of animals ordered destroyed during equine piroplasmosis response situations. Compensation awards are based on market value, up to the maximum amounts established by the regulations. Currently, the maximum amount is \$8000.00.

For more details on the compensation process, please see the brochure *Animal Health Compensation: What to expect when an animal is ordered destroyed*.



Questions or concerns?

If you have any questions or concerns related to the CFIA's disease response activities, please contact:

Name of CFIA representative: _____

Phone number: _____