

# EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA

## What is equine infectious anemia?

Equine infectious anemia (EIA) is a potentially fatal viral disease affecting horses and other members of the Equidae family, such as donkeys and mules.

EIA is spread by contaminated blood. Insects such as horse flies, stable flies, and deer flies aid in the disease spread. Re-used needles, syringes, or improperly cleaned surgical instruments can also spread EIA.

### What's the risk?



EIA presents no risk to human health but protecting your animals helps prevent chronic illness or death in equines.



Preventative measures also help to ensure you can move your equines freely within and outside of Canada.

### What to look for?

#### EIA infected animals may present signs like:



- ☒ **Depression** | behavioural changes
- ☒ **Hemorrhage under the tongue and eyes** |
  - spotting
  - bruising
- ☒ **Jaundice** | yellowing of gums and eyes
- ☒ **Anemia** | pale gums



- ☒ **Weight loss** | thinning, protruding ribs
- ☒ **Fever** | over 38.5 degrees C



- ☒ **Weakness** | lack of energy
- ☒ **Loss of coordination** | tripping, stumbling
- ☒ **Swelling of the extremities** | swollen legs

### What happens if an equine has EIA?



There is currently no cure or vaccine for EIA. Animals remain carriers for life and are a source of infection for other animals. Humane depopulation is required for positive animals to prevent disease spread.

Any equines exposed to the disease will be placed under quarantine until they receive two negative EIA results. Minimum 45 days quarantine.

### How to prevent EIA infections:



- ☑ Strict hygiene practices when vaccinating or collecting blood samples (ie. single-use needles)
- ☑ implement insect control measures
- ☑ test equines at events with commingling
- ☑ test equines if they are showing clinical signs of disease
- ☑ isolate new equines until they have been tested for EIA
- ☑ abide by the [national EIA control program](#)

