

Self- Certification of Equine Health – What's Involved?



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Introduction

In 2009, the Maryland Department of Agriculture mandated that Self-Certification forms for horses be used when bringing horses to and from county and state fair horse shows. This power point will help volunteers, 4-Hers, parents, and 4-H educators gain a greater understanding of what this form is and how it can be used in conjunction with other necessary paperwork.



What papers do I need to show at the county or state fair horse show?

1. Negative Coggins Test

- Coggins Tests evaluate the horse's blood for the presence of antibodies for Equine Infectious Anemia (Swamp Fever).
- Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) is a blood borne virus that is often transmitted by flies and can be deadly in severe cases.
- Must be done annually and a negative Coggins must be shown at all horse shows.

EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANEMIA TEST RECORD

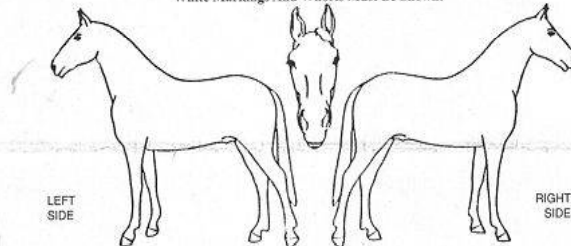
Print name and address legibly for window envelope use

I hereby certify that the blood specimen submitted with this form was drawn by me from the animal described below on the date indicated.

Dr.		DATE BLED		SIGNATURE	
Address					
City	State	Zip			
Owner	Reason for Test:		Animal Stabled At		
Address	1. Clinical		Address		
Zip	2. Infected		County		
Phone	3. Exposed		TOWN		
	4. Show		Farm No. (OBSP)		
	5. Sale				
	6. Routine				
	7. Other				

TUBE NUMBER	NAME	COLOR	BREED	SEX* Check One			AGE	TEST RESULTS
				S	M	G		

White Markings And Whorls Must Be Shown!



LEFT SIDE

RIGHT SIDE

Date and condition of samples received _____

The result of the test for Equine Infectious Anemia on the above specimen is as indicated

Signature _____

Accession No. _____

*Please Use Legend: S = Stallion/Male
M = Mare/Female
G = Gelding

WHITE COPY -- VETERINARIAN
YELLOW COPY -- OWNER
PINK COPY -- FILE
GOLDENROD COPY -- STATE VETERINARIAN

What papers do I need to show at the county or state fair horse show?

3. Self Certification Equine Health Form

- Required for each equine entering a fair/show-type event where multiple livestock species are present. The form must be available for inspection if requested.
- This form acts as an easy checklist to check your animal for symptoms. Exhibitors may not bring an animal having apparent or known signs of a contagious or infectious disease to a show.
- Essentially, this form is a teaching tool to help you recognize symptoms of infectious diseases, so you can prevent an outbreak of diseases within the horse community.

**EQUINE EXHIBITOR'S
SELF-CERTIFICATION OF EQUINE HEALTH**

I, the undersigned, hereby verify the following:
(Parent or guardian must sign for children under age 18)

1. I am the owner/authorized caretaker/transporter (circle as applicable) of the equine identified on the current, valid, "Equine Infectious Anemia" (Coggin's) document.
2. I understand that any equine showing any signs of or having recent exposure to, contagious or infectious disease are not permitted to enter the fair/show premises. These conditions include but are not limited to the following:
 - SKIN: Visible evidence of skin infections (bacterial or fungal) with particular emphasis on ringworm.
 - HEAD: Discharge from the eyes or nose which is excessive in amount or opaque (yellow or white in color) as opposed to the normal clear nasal discharge commonly seen after exercise.
 - RESPIRATORY: Signs of infectious respiratory disease such as fever, coughing, labored breathing, increased respiratory rate and nasal discharge. Animals originating from premises where there is current infectious respiratory disease and animals with any known exposure to infectious respiratory disease shall be ineligible to show for a minimum of 21 days after exposure. Infectious respiratory disease shall include but not be limited to *Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis, and Strangles*.
 - INTESTINAL: Evidence of diarrhea which is watery and/or persistent in nature and more profuse than a looser stool which could be attributed to diet or nervousness.
 - FEET: Horses exhibiting any type of unsoundness are already excluded from showing by the rules governing horse for shows.
 - OTHER: Recent exposure to, or clinical signs of, any contagious or infectious disease conditions that would exclude equine from exhibition.
3. I have read and understand the above guidelines.
4. I have visually examined the equine I am presenting for exhibit.
5. I agree not to present for exhibition any equine showing any signs of contagious or infectious disease, or having any known recent (21 days) exposure to any contagious or infectious disease.

Date of inspection: _____ Number inspected _____ Signature _____
Printed Name _____ Event _____
(Parent or guardian must sign for children under age 18)

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MDA D-22 (Rev. 10/00)

Where can I get the self certification equine health form?

- Visit the Maryland Department of Agriculture Website at:
 - http://www.mda.state.md.us/animal_health/fair_show/fair_show_info.php

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MDA B-22 (Rev. 10-04)

What health conditions do I have to observe and/or check for the Self Certification Form?

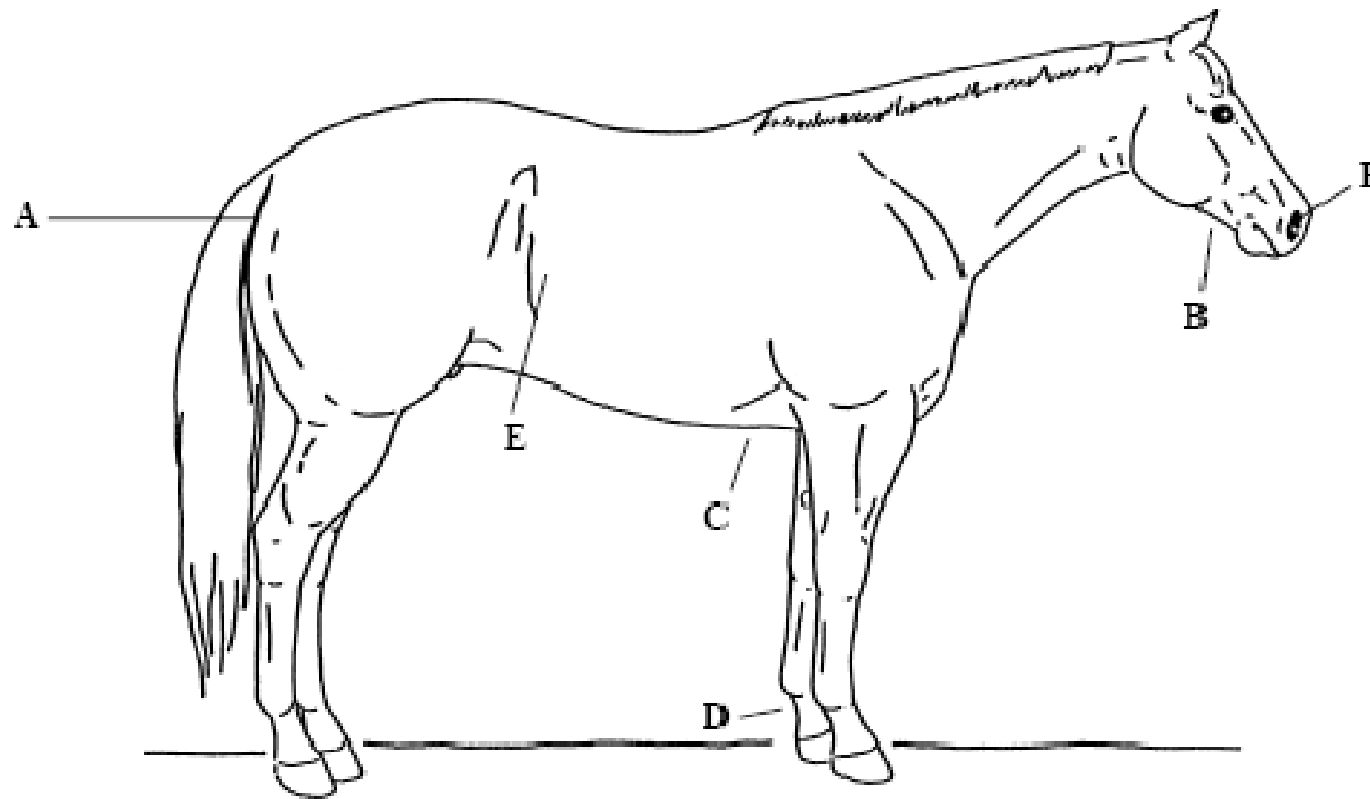
- **TPR (Temperature, Pulse, and Respiration)**
- **Skin**
- **Head (eyes)**
- **Respiratory**
- **Intestinal**
- **Feet**
- **Freedom from Infectious Diseases**

Vital Signs

- Really LOOK AT your horse everyday
- Know average vital signs:
 - Temperature – 99 - 101° F
 - Pulse (Heart Beat) – 30 to 40 BPM
 - Respiration Rate – 8 to 16 BPM
- Establish and record “norms” for your horse so that you have something to refer to as a baseline for his/her “normal” condition



Locations To Take Vital Signs



A = Temperature
B, C or D = Heart Rate
E or F = Respiration Rate

Figure 1. Locations for monitoring vital signs.

Anderson, K. "Tips for New Horse Owners". Nebraska Cooperative Extension

Skin

- **The hair coat and skin is generally a good indicator of health**
- **Skin should be free from any infections (bacterial or fungal)**
- **Coat condition may vary with the seasons, whether the horse is stalled or not, grooming practices, medical history, and any type of feed and supplements in the diet**



Skin Characteristics

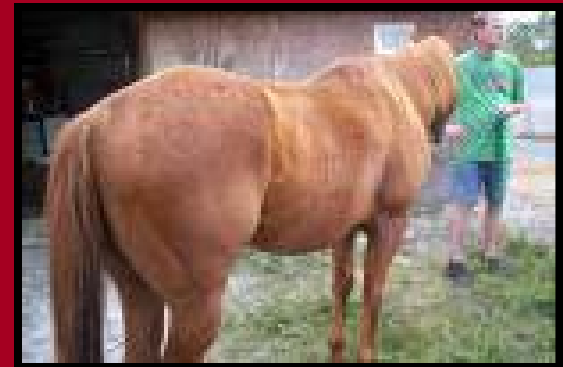
Ideal

- Glossy Coat (Has Bloom)
- Color looks bright
- Hair lays flat
- Hair feels smooth



Poor

- Dull Coat
- Hair is brittle
- Hair falls out
- Hair is rough
- Presence of bacterial or fungal infection



Ringworm

- This is a common fungal infection of the skin that presents in circular patterns on the skin
- It is contagious when communal grooming tools are used



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Produced by: David Ellis and Roland Hermanis
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HorseGroomingSupplies.com

Head (Eyes)

- **Eyes should be bright and clear**
- **Horses should have an alert expression and be responsive to normal stimuli**
- **There should be no opaque (yellow or white in color) discharge from the eyes**
- **No excessive “weeping” from the eyes**



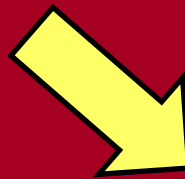
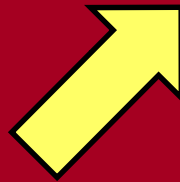
Eye Discharge Examples



Healthy Eye



Unhealthy
Eyes



Respiratory

- **Nasal Discharge**

- Normal discharge is clear, thin, and not excessive
- Abnormal discharge will be opaque and thick
 - This may be a symptom of some upper respiratory infection
- This may be the first symptom you notice with the onset of an infectious disease

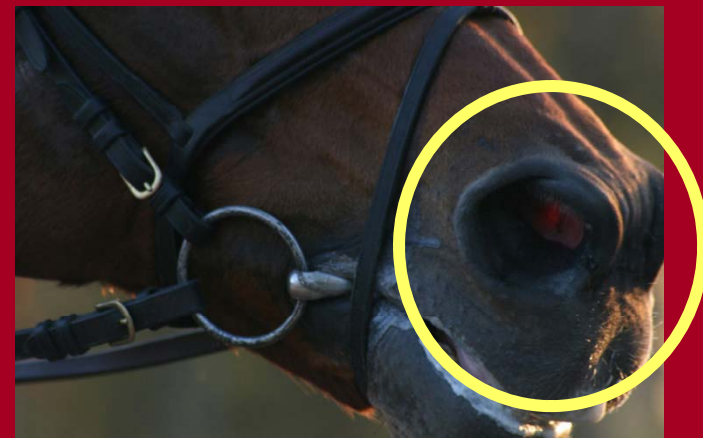
Healthy



Unhealthy

Respiratory

- **Respiration / Breathing**
 - Average - 8 to 16 breaths per minute
 - Nostrils flare and contract with each breath
 - To measure breaths per minute, count this flare for 30 seconds and multiply by 2.
 - If your horse is having trouble breathing (with a high respiration rate , coughing, or labored breathing) he may have an infection!



Intestinal Issues

Changes in your horse's stool can be an indication of a problem

Normal Feces

- Small, compacted balls that are fairly solid



Irregular Feces (Diarrhea)

- Watery feces that are VERY loose



Feet

- Horses should receive routine hoof care every 6-8 weeks
- There should be no unsoundness within the hoof
- Horses having trouble moving should not come to a show
 - Unsoundnesses may be an indicator of:
 - Infectious disease
 - A result of improper hoof care
 - Sign of joint, muscle, or bone problems



The Healthy Hoof

- Slick, slightly waxy appearance
- Coronary band should feel moist and resilient
- Frog pliable and intact
- Sole should be firm
- White line should be free of discoloration
- Hoof should be free of odor



The Unhealthy Hoof

Foundered Hoof



Club Foot



Abscess

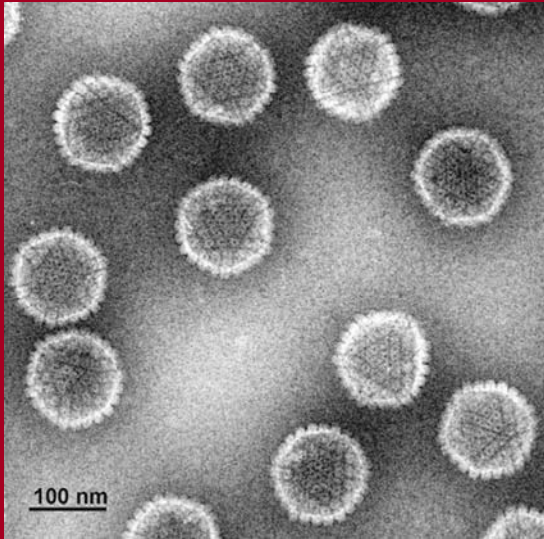


Signs of Improper Hoof Care

While improper hoof care may not be a symptom of an infectious disease, it is crucial to understand hoof care and recognize when there is a problem.



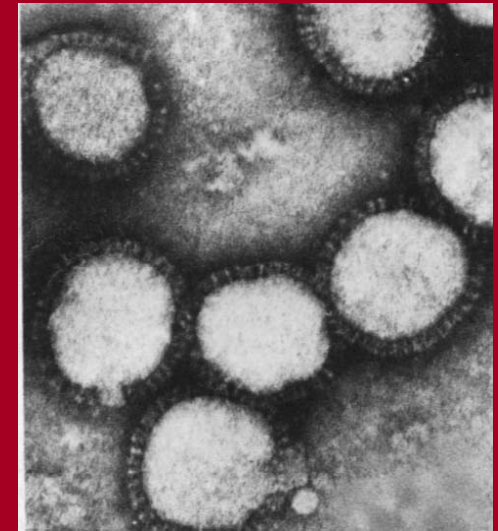
Common Equine Infectious Diseases



**Rhinopneumonitis -
Equine Herpes
Virus (EHV)**



**Strangles -
*Streptococcus
equi* bacteria**



**Influenza -
Myxovirus**

Rhinopneumonitis

EHV Type 1

- **Affects horses of all ages**
- **Symptoms-**
 - **Fever (102 – 107 degrees F)**
 - **Abortion in mares 3-9 months pregnant**
 - **Congestion and discharge from the nostrils**
 - **Mild incoordination to severe paralysis**



EHV Type 4

- **Affects young horses**
- **Symptoms-**
 - **Fever up to 106 degrees F**
 - **Upper respiratory infection**
 - **Golden colored nasal discharge**



Streptococcus equi

“Strangles” Symptoms

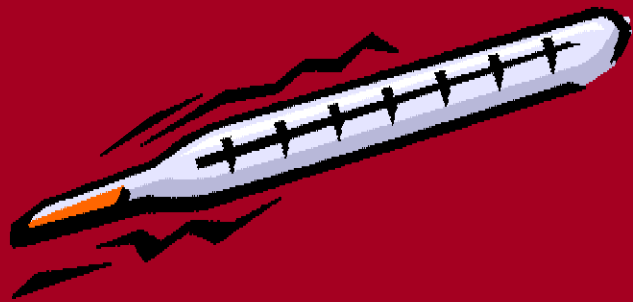
- Fever of 104 degrees
- Thin watery discharge that becomes thick and yellow as the disease progresses (how the disease is spread)
- Hot, swollen, painful lymph nodes under the throatlatch
- Depression
- Loss of appetite
- **HIGHLY** contagious



Equine Influenza

Symptoms

- **Fever- 102-105 degrees for up to 5 days**
- **Dry cough**
- **Nasal discharge**
- **Rapid spread of symptoms throughout herds**



Interesting Facts!

- **The aerosol form of the virus can survive for 24-36 hours outside of the body, contributing to the high contagiousness of the disease.**
- **There are 2 distinct viruses that cause the flu. H7N7 (type 1) and H3N8 (type 2)**
- **This disease has been recognized in horses by humans for over 500 years!**

How Do Diseases Spread?

- **Most of these diseases are spread through the nasal discharge that accompanies the disease. This occurs by:**
 - Direct horse to horse contact
 - Transfer into communal feeding and water troughs
 - Even on your clothes or skin!
- **This means you have to be very careful when handling a sick horse**
 - Make sure you wash your hands before handling another horse
 - Clean water and feed bins regularly
 - Quarantine sick horse immediately

It's Up To You!

- **It is your responsibility as a horse owner to:**
 - **Monitor your horse's health carefully so you can see the symptoms early on before the disease spreads**
 - **Know the symptoms of disease so you can recognize them in your horse**
 - **Leave your horse at home if it is sick, and keep it away from others that might get sick too!**



It's Up To You!

- **Before going to the county/state fair horse show you should:**
 - **Use the self certification form to check your horse's health**
 - **Sign and date the form and bring it with any other necessary paperwork to the show**
 - **Be prepared to leave your horse at home if they are showing any signs of illness**



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