



Role of the State Animal Health Officials in Protecting Equine Health

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State Animal Health Officials (SAHOs)

- Who are they?
 - State Veterinarian, field veterinarians, technicians, inspectors
 - Employed by Departments of Agriculture, Animal Health or Livestock Commissions or Boards
 - Expertise in livestock health and regulations
- What do they do?
 - Mission to protect animal health within the state
 - Primary focus on producing animals such as cattle, swine, sheep and goats.
 - Respond to diseases which pose a public health risk or catastrophic animal health risk
 - Develop and enforce state animal health laws



Equine Health Roles of State Animal Health Officials

- Control and prevention of regulatory diseases in horses
- Equine regulatory disease surveillance and monitoring
 - Conduct epidemiological investigations
 - Implement appropriate control measures for positive horses
 - Reporting of disease investigation findings
- Collaboration
 - Research/ Academia
 - Industry
- Outreach and education



Interstate Movement Controls

- Purpose: disease control and prevention
- State based animal entry requirements
 - Certificates of Veterinary Inspection
 - Laboratory Testing Requirements
- Border crossing activity
- Vehicle stops and inspections



What is a Regulatory Disease?

- Diseases of global significance
 - Ex. African Horse Sickness
- Diseases of national significance
 - Ex. Vesicular Stomatitis
- Diseases of state significance
 - Ex. Strangles



Equine Regulatory Diseases

- Domestic diseases
 - Equine Infectious Anemia
 - Equine Herpesvirus-1
 - Arboviruses (West Nile Virus)
 - Vesicular Stomatitis
- Foreign diseases
 - Equine Piroplasmosis
 - Contagious Equine Metritis



Reportable Disease Lists

- Disease condition vs disease agent (EHM vs EHV-1)
- International reportable disease list
 - World Animal Health Organization (AKA Office of International Epizootics)
- National reportable disease list
 - United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- State reportable disease lists
 - Diseases of state importance
 - Ex. Strangles, Pigeon Fever
 - Typically industry driven



Reportable Diseases

- Reportable to Whom?
 - State or Federal Animal Health Official
- What is reportable?
 - Suspicious or confirmed cases
- What action is taken?
 - Reportable DOES NOT mean actionable
 - Surveillance monitoring vs regulatory action
- What is industry's role?
 - Report detected disease
 - Assist in development of state and national reportable disease lists



SAHO Response to Reportable Diseases

- Reportable does not mean actionable
- Disease agent dependent
- Options
 - No action taken
 - Isolation and quarantine
 - Movement restrictions
 - Testing
 - Treatment
 - Humane euthanasia



Example of Responses to Reportable Diseases

Equine Infectious Anemia

- Positive horse
 - Euthanasia OR
 - Lifetime quarantine 200 yards away from all other horses
- Exposed animal trace
 - Exposed animals quarantined
 - Require all exposed animals to be tested twice in 60 days
- USDA Uniform Methods and Rules

Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy

- Positive horse
 - Quarantine and isolation for 21 days post onset of clinical signs
- Exposed animal trace
 - Possible quarantine
 - Testing of non-clinical horses not recommended
- USAHA Guidance Document for EHM Incident

SAHO Collaborations

- Policy
 - United States Animal Association (USAHA)
 - National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA)
 - USDA Stakeholder Meetings
- Research
 - Advancing diagnostic technology
 - Advancing disease control methodology
- Industry
 - American Horse Council
 - American Association of Equine Practitioners
 - US Equestrian Federation
 - Breed/Discipline Organizations



United States Animal Health Association Mission

- Serve as a forum for communication and coordination on issues of animal health and disease control, animal welfare, food safety and public health.
- Serve as a clearinghouse for new information and methods
- Act to develop solutions to animal-health related issues based on science, new information and methods
- Develop a consensus for changing laws, regulations, policies and programs.



Infectious Diseases of Horses

Committee of the USAHA

- Purpose: to address and seek solutions to infectious disease issues that can compromise the health of the nation's equine population
- Serves as a sounding board for discussion on equine health related
- Development of strategies/solutions to resolve such problems.
- Provides recommendations and resolutions aimed at solving equine health problems.
- You can join the USAHA, today.



National Institute for Animal Agriculture (NIAA)

- Purpose: to provide a source for individuals and organizations to obtain information, education and solutions for the challenges facing the animal agriculture and industry.
- NIAA issue initiatives encompass the entire animal agriculture field including cattle, sheep, swine, avian, equine and aquaculture industries.
- NIAA is dedicated to programs to:
 - Work towards the eradication of diseases that pose a risk the health of animals, wildlife and humans;
 - Promote a safe and wholesome food supply for our nation and abroad;
 - Promote best practices in environmental stewardship, animal health and well-being.



National Institute for Animal Agriculture



- The organization addresses many traditional livestock industry issues, such as animal health, animal care and handling, animal production (on-farm) food safety, animal identification and information systems and environmental issues,
- Also engages in emerging issues such as international trade and biotechnology, preventive herd/flock health strategies, disease eradication, animal health emergency management, animal health and trade and emerging diseases.
- Equine Committee
 - Mission: To address key equine health issues relevant to the economic well-being of the U.S. equine industry
- You can join the NIAA, today.

SAHAO Role in Outreach and Education

- Disease outbreak reports
- State specific outreach materials
- Websites/ Social Media
- Presentations



State Animal Health Officials Equine Health Concerns

- Limited ability to control disease
 - Untested populations
 - Illegal horse movements
 - Lack of funding for testing and tracing
 - Lack of traceability allowing disease spread
- Inability to provide adequate outreach to the equine industry
 - Segmented industry makes it difficult to reach every horse owner
 - Speed of social media vs speed of governmental agency outreach mechanism



Specific Challenges of State Animal Health Officials

- Increased number of equine disease outbreaks
- Limited equine expertise on staff
- Limited funding for equine programs
- Limited federal authority for certain equine regulatory diseases of concern
- Limited traceability of equines
- Communications with all of the equine Industry



How Industry Can Help SAHOs?

- Be the eyes and ears in the industry
 - Contact SAHO if you suspect a reportable disease
 - Alert SAHO of industry concerns
- Get involved and meet your SAHOs
 - Provide expertise and experience
 - Provide industry perspective at the local level
 - Assist in dissemination of information
- Assist in protecting equine health
 - Promote and practice biosecurity
 - Educate fellow industry members on equine health issues
 - Support federal regulations for consistent management of equine diseases
 - Implement industry disease prevention measures
 - Ex. Requiring health certificates for shows or Coggins tests for race tracks





Protecting Equine Health is a Team Effort

Alone we can do so little;
together we can do so much.

- Helen Keller