



Horsin' Around The Wabash Valley

March 2009

President: Jeanne Lorenzo
Vice Pres: Jeremy Ray

Secretary: Deborah Shahadey
Treasurer: Jennette Shaker

Upcoming Meeting:

- March 10 @ 7:00 pm
(Sycamore Chevy)



Club website @
www.wvha.info

- Show bills
- Meeting dates
- Forms
- Sponsorship
- Local Horses & Items 4 Sale
- Links of interest
- And more



Number of Stallions Testing Positive for Contagious Equine Metritis Grows

INDIANAPOLIS (16 January 2009)—The number of horses testing positive for contagious equine metritis (CEM) nationally continues to grow as the investigation and related testing expands. Nationally, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and state animal health agencies have identified 334 horses as exposed. That figure represents 43 stallions and 291 mares. The two latest stallions testing positive are in Wisconsin and Texas.

As animal health officials continue to identify the identities and locations of at-risk mares and stallions, horse owners are being contacted to gather basic information and schedule testing.

Indiana State Board of Animal Health (BOAH) veterinarians have received inquiries from horse owners who would like to treat their mares on their own, without oversight or guidance from regulatory officials. BOAH veterinarian and equine Director Dr. Tim Bartlett strongly discourages this practice, because it could negatively impact the nationwide eradication of the disease.

“CEM is not a fix-it-yourself disease,” he explained. “If not done properly, there’s always a risk that an individual animal may not be completely cured. That could leave a reservoir of infection in the environment.”

The USDA has a very specific testing and treatment protocol that must be met to ensure CEM is eradicated. Dr. Bartlett noted, “Unless we, as an industry, can address this properly and at all levels, we may lose our status in the global marketplace as a source of disease-free equine. The industry as a whole has a lot at stake.”

What’s more, those who treat their animals themselves could hinder the nationwide investigation, added Dr. Bartlett. “Ultimately, we could end up dealing with CEM infections for years—and that’s the last thing we want.”

Horse owners who have questions or concerns about testing and/or treatment procedures should contact BOAH for guidance.

Treatment has begun on all three of the stallions traced to Indiana, under the supervision of BOAH. Extensive testing must be completed on the stallions before quarantines can be lifted and the animals released for breeding.

Contagious equine metritis is a transmissible, exotic venereal disease in horses. It usually results in infertility in mares and, on rare occasions, can cause mares to spontaneously abort. Infected stallions exhibit no clinical signs but can carry the CEM bacteria for years. CEM is commonly transmitted during sexual intercourse, but also may be transmitted indirectly through artificial insemination or contact with contaminated hands or objects.

There is no evidence that CEM affects people.

For the most accurate information on this case visit the BOAH Web site at www.in.gov/boah

- Indiana Horse Council, January 2009

Trail Riding Essentials

The right gear and gadgets make your trail ride safe and fun

There's nothing like having what you need when you need it to help you feel competent and in control. When you and your horse are ready to leave home and go out on the trail, you can prepare for the changing environment and its challenges with additional clothing and equipment that's simple and affordable.

To help you plan ahead, our experts--trainer and trail clinician Bruce Lachiusa and Tevis Cup-winning endurance rider Lori Stewart-- tell you what, depending on where they're going, when, and for how long, they take along on the trail.

For You

- **Extra layers of clothing.** Include a lightweight wind and water-resistant pullover, for changes in weather.
- **Bandanna.** "A bandanna is over my ears in cold weather, around my neck in hot weather. It's an emergency compress, or a hanky. It repairs equipment, or ties stuff to my saddle," says Lori.
- **Gloves.** Use to keep your hands warm, protect your hands when handling rocks, branches, brush, and wire.
- **Fanny pack.** Find one that fits close to your body without bouncing. Inside it, stash the items you want to stay with you if you and your horse part company, including: --*Cell phone*, to call for help, or to phone home. --*Pocket knife or multipurpose tool*. --*Whistle*, more audible than a yell for getting help. --*Flashlight*, for dealing with emergencies in the dark, finding your way, and helping others to find you. --*Large plastic trash bag* (fold small and secure with a rubber band) for emergency poncho, ground cloth, or tablecloth. --*Purse-size pack of facial tissues*. --*Juice box or other packaged drink*. --*Durable concentrated energy food*, such as a Power Bar or Cliff Bar (in outdoor and health-food stores) or Payday candy bar. "Avoid things that melt or crumble," says Lori. --*Sample-size bottle of sun block*. --*Lip balm with UV protection*. --*Small tube of petroleum jelly* or Desitin to treat minor abrasions or chafing. --*Topographical map* (from a stationery or outdoor store) or good road map of the area where you plan to ride. Get your horse used to your unfolding it at home, on the ground, and then (cautiously) on horseback.
- **Water bottle(s).** These are valuable for long rides. Trail and some tack stores have these in no-bounce holders that fasten to the saddle in front or behind you (either works, says Lori)--or choose a cantele bag with bottle holder attached.



- **Cantele bag.** Make sure the one you buy can attach to your saddle. Most are made for Western saddles. For an English saddle, a "Snug Pack" from Sportack's catalogue works well; it includes water bottles/holders. In your cantele bag, stow: --*Easyboot* to keep the small problem of a lost shoe from becoming the big problem of a damaged foot. --*Hoof pick*. *Small roll of duct tape* for emergency repairs or reinforcing Easy Boot. --*Reflective vest* (as little as \$4 in surplus stores, suggests Bruce) for safety if you're caught out after dark; rolls up. --*Roll of reflective tape* for hock- and tail-wrapping after dark. --*Extra bandanna*. --*Roll of bandaging tape*, such as Vetrap, for emergency care. --*Extra-long leather bootlaces* for repairing tack or tying objects to saddle. --*Inexpensive stethoscope* for checking pulse and gut sounds. Lori stores hers by stuffing it inside an old sock. --*Spray bottle of water/alcohol or water/witch-hazel mix* to cool your horse; seal in Ziploc bag to avoid leaks. --*First-aid kit including bandages, antibacterial cream, etc.*

For Your Horse

- **Bridle.** Recommended is a nylon or biothane halter/bridle, which is washable, durable and inexpensive (under \$50) from trail-specialty catalogues, plus snap-on reins (not biothane, which doesn't provide enough grip, or leather, which isn't safe to tie with; rough-surfaced nylon or cotton rope and cotton webbing are okay) that convert quickly to a lead shank. To your bridle, attach an "attention-getting" bit, slightly stronger than you use in the ring--for instance, a slow-twist snaffle if your ring-riding bit is smooth.
- **Saddle.** Your current Western or English saddle might work fine--but if you trail ride often, consider a saddle made specifically for trail riding.
- **Saddle pad.** An all-purpose pad in natural or synthetic fleece or cotton fiber works well; make sure it extends out far enough from your saddle to prevent water bottles, canteen packs, or other attachments from chafing.
- **Sponge.** Lori likes The Australian Connection's big Dunking Sponge; enclosed in a net bag, it attaches to one of the saddle's D-rings by means of a long string and a clip.
- **Halter and lead rope.** Unless you use a convertible halter/ bridle, you'll need a good-fitting halter and a lead rope to tie your horse safely.
- **Spare stirrup leather.** In case yours breaks on the trail.
- **Full chaps.** These protect your legs from thick, high brush or dense woods, and improve your grip, but can be clumsy for mounting from the ground.
- **Seat pad.** A seat pad cushions your rear on long rides; and protects your saddle from scratching.

Trail Etiquette for Equestrians

Do you and your horse have good manners on the trail?

1. Make sure your horse has the temperament and training for riding on congested public trails. Busy multi-use trails are not the proper place for schooling green horses.
2. Advise other trail users of your horse's temperament, e.g. a horse with a tendency to kick should always wear a red ribbon in the tail or a stallion should wear a yellow ribbon. Assume that not everyone will know what these ribbons mean, so be prepared to explain or take the necessary precautions to avoid trouble.
3. Obey posted speed/gait limits, and use common sense in crowded areas (cantering/galloping on crowded trails endangers everyone.)
4. Move to the right to allow faster trail users to pass.
5. Announce your intention to pass other trail users, and reduce speed in order to pass safely. Pass on the left only.
6. Remove your horse from the trail if you begin experiencing behavior problems.
7. Stay on equestrian-approved trails.
8. As a courtesy to others in your group, use appropriate hand signals for turning, slowing, etc., and give verbal warnings for dangers on the trail (e.g. holes, low branches).
9. Remember that other trail users may not be familiar with horses or their reactions to new experiences. Your horse may be another trail user's introduction to horses; what you do is a reflection of the local horse community. Cheerfully answer questions about your horse. You are an ambassador for the entire equestrian community.
10. If you trailer to a location, do not clean out your trailer in the parking area.
11. On multiple-use trails, step off the trail (if possible) if your horse needs to relieve himself, or kick the droppings off the trail.



**Wabash Valley
Horseman's Association**

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**We're on the web!
www.wvha.info**

UPCOMING Shows:

Show bills posted online soon

- May 15 (speed)
- June 19 (speed)
- July 4 (fun, pleasure & speed)
* Parade preceding downtown
- Aug 14 (speed)
- Sept 6 (speed)
- Sept 18 (speed)
- Oct 10 (pleasure & speed)
Fall Show & Bean dinner

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• **NOTE:** To help the environment, newsletters will be sent by
• email to everyone who provides me with your email. Please help
• us reduce paper usage by providing me with your email. Call me
• at 812-230-0697 or email deb@firstlovefarms.com
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TO DO THIS MONTH

- **Monitor your senior equines.** Stay vigilant for weight loss and other signs of dental problems (abnormal chewing, dropped feed, refusal to chew hay stems). Have teeth checked if you suspect a problem. Dress your old horse in a warm blanket if he can't eat enough to maintain body condition in cold weather.
- **Prepare for foaling.** Get foaling stall/area ready, assemble foaling kit, record vet's office/cell numbers.
- **Clean/disinfect grooming tools.** Soak in a solution of one part household bleach to 10 parts warm water. Allow to dry before using on about-to-be-shedding horses.

- Horse & Rider, February 2009



Do you have a skill/talent you would be willing to share with the club? Contact us!

We NEED Volunteers: ring stewards, judges, concession stand, office help, Frontier Parade, and anything else horse and/or show related. Now accepting NEW members! Do you know of someone who would like to get involved with our club? Bring them to the next meeting!