

# Equine Infectious Anemia



Has your horse had its annual "COGGINS TEST" yet?

## DISEASE CONTROL FOR "SWAMP FEVER" OR "HORSE MALARIA"

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) is caused by a virus in horses that can lead to destruction of platelets, red blood cells, and inflammation in many of the organs of a horse's body. The virus invades the white blood cells and causes a lifelong infection in the horse. EIA is spread from horse to horse by biting, blood sucking flies, like the horsefly and deerfly. The virus can also be passed; during the breeding process, from a DAM to her foal, and by transfer of blood from an infected horse to an uninfected horse through needles or other equipment.

## CLINICAL SIGNS

- Acute forms of EIA can be seen as a sudden high fever, lethargy, anemia, and low blood platelets.
- Chronic form presents as an intermittent fever, weight loss, edema in the legs and lower abdomen, and anemia.

Initially your horse's immune system may be able to stop the virus and the horse will go through periods of no symptoms, but is still able to spread the virus. These animals serve as asymptomatic carriers. The horse will later have reoccurring episodes that will lead to the chronic condition noted above.



**EIA is a "Reportable Disease" and further testing is required to fully verify the results. You will need a negative EIA test to get a CVI from your Veterinarian for State-to-State travel.**

## QUESTIONS?

Reach out to your veterinarian for questions regarding EIA or Coggins testing. Contact the Maryland Department of Agriculture - Animal Health at 410-841-5810 regarding reportability. For Information regarding sample submission and diagnostic testing, please go to <https://mda.maryland.gov/AnimalHealth/Pages/laboratory.aspx>



## WHAT CAN HORSE OWNERS DO TO CONTROL THE SPREAD OF EIA?

- Use disposable syringes and needles. Use the one horse-one needle rule.
- Clean and sterilize all instruments thoroughly after each use.
- Keep stables and immediate facilities clean and sanitary. Remove manure and debris promptly, and ensure that the area is well drained.
- Implement insect and fly controls. Avoid contributing to habitats that are favorable to insect survival.
- Isolate all new horses, mules, and donkeys brought onto the premises until they have been Coggins tested for EIA.
- Obtain the required certification of a negative COGGINS TEST status for horse shows, county fairs, race-tracks, and other places where many animals are brought together, or as required when moving animals from State-to-State.
- Remember there is no cure for EIA, but yearly testing during an annual checkup starting at 6 months of age is recommended.