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***Knowledge to Go Places***

**DATE:** May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011

**TO:** Dr. Jerry Black

**FROM:** Dr. Paul Lunn & Dr. Paul Morley

**SUBJECT:** Horses returning from a horse show with a risk of exposure to EHV-1.

Right now it is impossible to predict with any confidence whether horses are shedding EHV-1 or whether disease is going to occur at the event center in Oklahoma and other venues, but the risk is certainly there given the reportedly wide distribution of affected horses after the event in Ogden, Utah, earlier this month.

- Owners or trainers of horses at show grounds where potential EHV1 exposure has occurred need to be aware of possibility that these animals may be incubating the disease. Therefore these horses, even if clinically healthy, could bring it home and spread it to horses there – this is the classic way this disease spreads.
  - These horses should be isolated from any other horses when they return to their home facility. Isolation requires housing them away from other horses, using different equipment to feed, clean and work with them that is used with any other horses, and rigorous hygiene procedures for horse handlers (hand hygiene, wearing separate clothes when contacting the horses, etc). Please discuss this with your veterinarian.
  - We strongly advise owners to call their vets to discuss how long to keep the horses isolated at home, but even if they don't develop fevers this should be at least 14 -21 days.
  - These horses should have their temperature taken twice a day, as temperature is typically the first and most common sign of infection – horses with elevated temperatures (101.5 F or greater) should be swabbed by your vet to find out whether they are shedding EHV-1.
  - If a horse develops a fever and is found to be shedding EHV-1 then the level of risk to other horses on the premises increases significantly. Those affected farms should work closely with their veterinarian to manage that situation, if it develops.
  - The AAEP has published an extensive set of “Infectious Disease Control” guidelines on its website, in the veterinarian section, that can be used for a more detailed response.