Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Fort Collins Now Authorized to Run cELISA Tests for Equine Piroplasmosis (EP)

Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is now authorized by USDA, APHIS, VS to perform the cELISA tests for Theileria equi and Babesia caballi for the intra- and interstate movement of equids that are not displaying any clinical signs of piroplasmosis. Please submit a serum sample (minimum ½ ml) for this test. Samples should be shipped overnight in a refrigerated cooler. The test is performed twice weekly. If you have any questions on sample submission, please call CSU-VDL at (970) 297-1281.

As was reported last week, there was a horse in Colorado that tested positive for equine piroplasmosis (EP). The horse was not showing any clinical signs of equine piroplasmosis but tested positive to Theileria equi on the cELISA test. The serum sample had been submitted by a private practitioner in Colorado. The EP positive horse has been euthanized.

Arapahoe Park instituted EP testing requirements for all horses entering the track facilities which was the reason for EP sample submission. Horses must be T. equi and Babesia caballi negative within 30 days of admission to Arapahoe Park. The piroplasmosis test-positive horse was in a stable with about twenty horses, none of those horses are considered positive at this time. Further testing will be done in approximately 30 days from the initial tests and if negative, the quarantine will be released.

Equine piroplasmosis is a reportable disease and leads to regulatory consequences. A quarantine and subsequent disease control plan for any test-positive horses is determined by the State Veterinarian of Colorado, USDA-APHIS-VS, along with input from the owners. Currently, there is no vaccine or approved treatment for EP in the United States.

The USDA, APHIS, VS Equine Piroplasmosis Info Sheet (written in English and Spanish) provides further information for you and your clients:

If you have any questions, please call the State Veterinarian’s Office at 303-239-4161.