



## International Collating Centre Third Quarter Report Summary

July – September 2018

This article provides a summary of international infectious disease outbreaks reported during the third quarter 2018. For further details, please see the supplied supplementary documents. The ICC real-time reports can be found at <http://www.aht.org.uk/cms-display/international-breeders-meeting.html>.

The data presented in this report must be interpreted with caution, as there is likely to be some bias in the way that samples are submitted for laboratory testing and subsequently reported. Consequently these data do not necessarily reflect true infectious disease frequency within the international equine population. A country with no reported outbreaks of disease does not necessarily equate to the disease not being present in that country. Each table below summarises the number of disease outbreaks reported by a country. Each reported outbreak may involve more than one animal.

### Reproductive Diseases

Country	Equine Herpes Virus-1 abortion/neonatal death	Equine Viral Arteritis	Contagious Equine Metritis
<i>Argentina</i>	1	-	-
<i>France</i>	-	-	1
<i>Germany</i>	-	1	10
<i>Japan</i>	1	-	-

#### **EHV-1 abortion/neonatal foal death**

##### *Argentina*

EHV-1 abortion and/or neonatal deaths were confirmed in 15 animals on one premises in Santa Fe. Cases were Thoroughbreds that presented over a 3 week period and were between the ninth and eleventh months of gestation. There were a total of 40 pregnant mares at the premises. Mares had been incompletely vaccinated against EHV.

#### **EVA**

##### *Germany*

EVA was confirmed in a young stallion and the positive diagnosis was confirmed by virus isolation and PCR on semen.

#### **Contagious Equine Metritis**

##### *France*

RESPE reported a case on a stud premises. The clinical infection was confirmed by bacteriology on a uterine swab taken from a 14-year-old Oldenburg mare that demonstrated signs of purulent metritis following artificial insemination with frozen semen.

##### *Germany*

CEM was confirmed in 10 non-Thoroughbreds (seven Icelandic, one Shetland and two Warmbloods) on nine separate premises. Positive diagnoses were confirmed by PCR on genital swabs.

### Respiratory Diseases

Country	EHV-1 Respiratory Infection	EHV-4 Respiratory Infection	Equine Influenza	Strangles
<i>Belgium</i>	11	-	-	3
<i>Colombia</i>	-	-	1	-
<i>France</i>	2	20	-	17
<i>Germany</i>	-	2	1	2
<i>Ireland</i>	-	-	-	60
<i>South Africa</i>	2	-	-	-
<i>Switzerland</i>	-	-	-	2
<i>UK</i>	-	7	-	Endemic
<i>USA</i>	-	-	Endemic	54

#### **EHV Respiratory Infection**

##### *South Africa*

A single case of EHV-1 was reported in the Limpopo Province and 10 cases out of a population of 54 horses were reported from a single property in the Mpumalanga Province. One mare aborted and the remaining nine horses presented with clinical signs of pyrexia.

##### *UK*

EHV-4 respiratory cases involved unvaccinated horses in five cases, with another two cases having an unknown vaccination history. Clinical signs included coughing, inappetence, nasal discharge and pyrexia. Most outbreaks had single animals reported as affected but one outbreak involved three horses.

#### **Influenza**

##### *Germany*

On 3 July 2018, Laboratory Dr. Böse GmbH reported an outbreak of equine influenza in the German state of Bavaria. Five non-vaccinated non-Thoroughbred stallions on one premises showed clinical signs of pyrexia and nasal discharge. Positive diagnoses were made by PCR on nasal swabs.

*South America*

Outbreaks of EI were reported in 16 of the 32 departments in Colombia, with over 2700 cases and one death. Positive diagnoses were made by agar-gel immunodiffusion (AGID), haemagglutination inhibition test (HIT) and PCR.

*USA*

EI is endemic in the USA and was confirmed in three states.

**Strangles**

Strangles remains endemic in most countries, with further details on outbreaks reported by Belgium, France and USA.

*France*

There were 17 reported outbreaks in France. Most reports were of single cases but one outbreak involved five horses and another reported to involve three horses. Positive diagnoses were made by either culture or PCR of purulent material from abscesses, guttural pouch lavage samples, nasopharyngeal or nasal swabs.

*USA*

Strangles is endemic in the country with a total of 54 outbreaks reported in 21 states. At least 87 horses were diagnosed with the disease. Multiple horses were involved in nine of the recorded outbreaks.

**Neurological Diseases**

Country	EHV-1 Neurological Disease	Eastern Equine Encephalitis	Rabies	West Nile Virus
<i>Canada</i>	2	9	-	14
<i>France</i>	-	-	-	6
<i>Greece</i>	-	-	-	1
<i>Germany</i>	1	-	-	1
<i>Italy</i>	-	-	-	105
<i>Romania</i>	-	-	-	1
<i>South Africa</i>	-	-	-	1
<i>Switzerland</i>	1	-	-	-
<i>USA</i>	6	39	1	140

**Rabies**

*USA*

A case of rabies was diagnosed in a Miniature Donkey in Delaware.

**West Nile Virus**

*France*

To date for the year 2018, six equine cases of WNV have been confirmed in France, including four cases in the Gard and two in Upper Corsica. Three of these cases were reported to RESPE by vets, which allowed the confirmation of the first case in Corsica, an area in which the virus had not been detected before. Equine, avian and human cases have also been confirmed in many European countries.

*Germany*

The first reported occurrence of an equine case of WNV in a horse in Germany was made during the third quarter. Avian cases have also been confirmed in Germany in the previous weeks.

*Greece*

On 18 July 2018, OIE reported a single subclinical case of WNV in Thessaloniki, Central Macedonia, as part of active surveillance.

*Romania*

On 3 September 2018, the OIE reported an outbreak of WNV in Ilfov, Romania. There were two confirmed cases amongst 56 horses. The positive diagnoses were confirmed by IgM capture ELISA by Institute for Diagnosis and Animal Health (regional reference laboratory). This is the first reported occurrence of WNV in Romania.

**EHV-1 Neurological Disease**

Reports mainly involved single animals presenting with EHV-1 neurological disease.

**Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE)**

*Canada*

There were nine separate cases of EEE reported in Canada by OMAFRA. All cases were unvaccinated and presented with severe neurological signs, eight of the nine cases were euthanased.

*USA*

There were 39 cases of EEE reported in USA. Four of the cases were vaccinated, 16 were unvaccinated and 19 had an unknown vaccine history. Two cases died, 26 were euthanased and 11 had an unknown outcome.

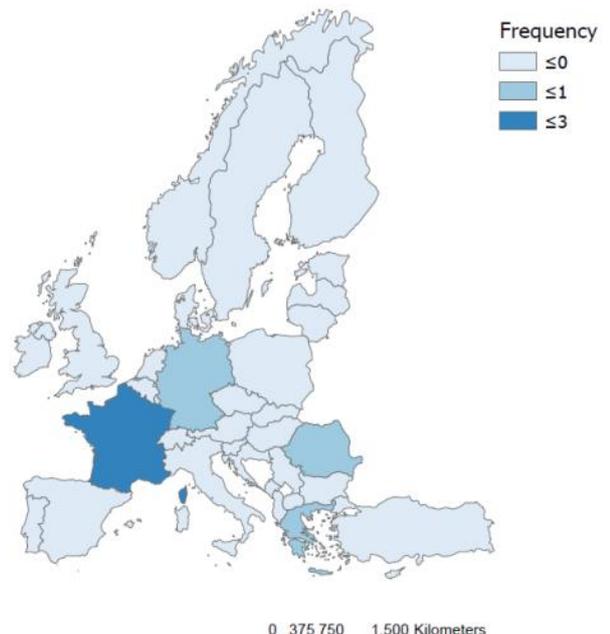


Figure 1: Countries in Europe with reported cases of WNV during third quarter 2018

*Italy*

WNV was reported in 142 horses on 105 separate premises, with 65 of those outbreaks reported after the 22 August 2018. The areas affected included Lazio and Basilicata in central Italy. It was noted that 19% of the cases reported showed clinical signs and there was a mortality rate of 4%. The confirming laboratory was Istituto Zooprofilattico SP. Teramo with diagnosis confirmed by serology.



Figure 2: Provinces in Italy with demonstrated circulation of WNV in vectors, animals and humans RED WNV circulation in humans, animals and vectors, YELLOW WNV circulation only in animals and vectors



Figure 3: The high circulation of WNV is related to the course of the Po River

*South Africa*

A single case of WNV was confirmed on RT-PCR by the Zoonotic Arbo and Respiratory Virus Programme, Centre for Viral Zoonosis, University of Pretoria, in a Friesian horse in the Gauteng Province that showed neurological signs and subsequently died.

*USA*

A total of 140 cases of WNV were reported in the USA during the third quarter 2018. Three cases were vaccinated, 91 were unvaccinated and 46 had an unknown vaccination history. Cases presented with a range of neurological signs including ataxia, depression, hyperaesthesia, muscle fasciculations, paresis/weakness, pyrexia and recumbency. When diagnostic testing information was reported, positive diagnoses were made by IgM capture ELISA. There were 39 cases that required euthanasia, two cases died, 50 were recovering or improving with supportive treatment and 49 had no further information reported.

**Miscellaneous Diseases**

Country	African Horse Sickness	Equine Encephalosis	Equine Infectious Anaemia	Hendra Virus	Glanders	Potomac Horse Fever	Salmonellosis
<i>Australia</i>	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<i>Canada</i>	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
<i>China</i>	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
<i>France</i>	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
<i>Ireland</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
<i>South Africa</i>	4	1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>USA</i>	-	-	17	-	-	29	11

**African Horse Sickness**

*South Africa*

The final four cases of the AHS season occurred in the AHS endemic area of the country during the first half of July 2018. There were two cases in the Eastern Cape Province, one case in the Freestate Province and one case occurred in Kwazulu Natal.

**EIA**

Positive cases were mainly confirmed during routine serological screening of asymptomatic animals.

*USA*

Equine infectious anemia was recorded in five states. Of the total of 17 cases reported, 10 were in Texas.

**Equine Encephalosis**

*South Africa*

A single case of EEV was reported in the Gauteng Province.

**Hendra Virus**

*Australia*

On 13 September 2018, The New South Wales Department of Primary Industries reported a case of Hendra virus infection in an unvaccinated horse in NSW. The premises was placed under movement restrictions by Local Land Services. This is the first confirmed case of Hendra virus in NSW in 2018.

**Glanders (*Burkholderia mallei*)**

*China*

On 26 August 2018, OIE reported an outbreak of Glanders at an equestrian club in Chongking. There were a total of 17 animals affected, 16 of these were euthanased and one died. Positive diagnoses were confirmed by PCR by China National Glanders Reference Laboratory.

**Salmonellosis**

*Ireland*

Two foals on one premises were confirmed with clinical salmonellosis. On follow-up sampling of the herd, 14 horses (seven mares and five foals) tested positive for *Salmonella* at some point over the following eight weeks. These animals were clinically normal. Positive diagnoses were confirmed by agent isolation by the Irish Equine Centre.

**Potomac Horse Fever**

*USA*

Cases of equine neorickettsiosis were confirmed in five states, with the greatest number (26) diagnosed in Kentucky. While there was a favorable outcome to treatment in the majority of affected horses, six of the cases in Kentucky died.

*This report is based on information received by the Animal Health Trust, Registered Charity Number 209642, which cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of such information.*