

Arapahoe Park Sets New Requirement for Entry of All Horses

April 9th, 2010

Equine Piroplasmosis (EP) testing is now required for all horses entering Arapahoe Park; this new track requirement set by Arapahoe Park is effective immediately. Therefore, all horses desiring entry to the Park will need to have a negative equine piroplasmosis test performed within thirty (30) days prior to entry onto the grounds of Arapahoe Park. All horses will need to be tested using the cELISA test for both types of the protozoa that cause the disease, *Theileria equi* and *Babesia caballi*. In addition to the required negative piroplasmosis test results within thirty (30) days prior to entry, all horses leaving Arapahoe Park during the season will not be allowed to re-enter without a **new** negative test result attached to a current certificate of veterinary inspection (CVI). In addition, approval must be obtained from the GM and Director of Racing of Arapahoe Park before horses will be allowed re-entry.

Samples may be submitted to Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSUVDL). CSU VDL has requested permission from USDA to perform this test, but until this is granted will forward samples to National Veterinary Service Laboratory (NVSL) at no extra charge. Please call (970) 297-1281 with any submission questions. CSU VDL has offered this service to accommodate Colorado practitioners in the submission process but veterinarians can submit the samples directly to NVSL. NVSL forms (VS Form 10-4) and submission instructions can be obtained by calling NVSL at 515-337-7563.

Each horse that is tested must be identified. This preferably would be a tattoo, an electronic microchip, or a unique brand. If the horse has a permanent ID that can be recorded, write it on the test forms and the CVI. At minimum, all horses must be identified by name and description. The animal identification information needed for a completed EIA form, VS Form 10-11 (Coggins Test Form) would be the minimum amount of ID information that would be accepted.

Permanent identification of animals is an important aspect to preventing and controlling diseases of high consequence like equine piroplasmosis. EP is considered to be a disease of great consequence by U.S. animal health officials and by the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE). Outbreaks of this disease are costly to the equine industry and if the disease would become endemic in the U.S., the cost of eradication would be enormous. Using permanent ID should be seriously considered by horse owners and their veterinarians.

Equine piroplasmosis is a reportable disease and leads to regulatory consequences. Quarantine and a subsequent disease control plan for the horses will be determined by State animal health officials and USDA-APHIS-VS along with input from the owners.

If you have questions about the requirements, feel free to contact Arapahoe Park or the Division of Racing Events Office at 303-205-2990.

Checklist for entry to Arapahoe Park:

- Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (CVI) written within 30 days of entry – multiple horses may be entered on one CVI
- The following statement must be written on the CVI: **“I personally inspected this animal and it does not display clinical signs of equine piroplasmosis, and I inspected this animal for ticks.”**
- Negative piroplasmosis test results attached to the CVI (tested within 30 days of entry)

- Negative equine infectious anemia (EIA) test within the last 12 months
- Record all test results and lab accession numbers on the CVI

Vital information that needs to be included on the Piroplasmosis & EIA test submission form and on the CVI is the following:

- Mailing address of the owner/agent
- Physical location of the owner/agent
- Physical location where the horse is housed
- ID of the horse - preferably a tattoo, an electronic microchip, or unique brand but at minimum must include the name of the horse and description