



2016 USDA Equine Piroplasmosis statistics are as follows:
Especially important is the information that 67 of the 68 horses positive for Equine Piroplasmosis last year were Racing Quarter Horses. In addition, even with decreased numbers of horses tested for Equine Piroplasmosis there is an increase in the incidence rate of the disease in the equine population with the racing quarter horses being the highest risk. If the horses are diagnosed prior to entering Arapahoe Park, there will be no testing or movement restrictions for horses at Arapahoe Park. If diagnosed on the facility there will be testing requirements and movement restrictions for the horses on the tract which in turn would be a significant financial burden for the horsemen.



United States Department of Agriculture

EP 2016: 68 new cases of *T. equi*

- Of the 68 new EP cases, 67 were in QH racehorses with involvement of iatrogenic transmission, 1 was an Azteca mare suspected of illegal movement from Mexico
 - Arkansas - 2 bushtrack QH (1 co-infected with EIA), 1 Azteca in same neighborhood; suspected illegal movement from Mexico
 - Arizona – Cluster of 3 QH racehorses
 - Illinois – 1 QH racehorse
 - New Mexico – 1 QH racehorse
 - Tennessee – Cluster of 17 QH bushtrack; unrelated cluster of 7 QH bushtrack
 - Texas – Cluster of 10 – QH racehorses associated with same trainer – some recently raced in Louisiana; unrelated cluster of 4 QH racehorses; new single positive QH racehorse (Sept) under investigation
 - Wyoming/Utah – Cluster of 21 QH racehorses



EP Current Issue – Reduction in Overall Surveillance Testing and Loss of Testing at Sanctioned QH Racetracks

Year	Total Horses Tested	# EP Positive
2009	9,170	9
2010	76,803	143
2011	75,680	31
2012	45,617	6
2013	38,939	27
2014	27,781	31
2015	23,212	16
2016 (Jan-Sept)	17,507	68
Total	314,709	331

*11 states had EP test requirements to enter racetracks in 2010, now only 4 states have current EP test entry requirements (NM, TX, UT, WY)

*Of the 331 positive horses found, 293 were racehorses (280 QH race)

3

Given that the primary high-risk population for EP over the past several years has been determined to be limited to Quarter Horse racehorses, targeted surveillance in this population is critical to identifying positive cases quickly and mitigating further iatrogenic spread of the disease. While annual surveillance for EP was previously conducted at levels of approximately 75,000 horses per year in 2010 and 2011, surveillance numbers since that time have been dropping annually and now hover around 20,000 horses tested per year. Additionally, while there were once 11 states with EP test requirements to enter sanctioned racetracks in 2010, there are now only 4 states with an EP test requirement to enter tracks. This decline in surveillance testing in the high-risk population hinders the goal of early detection and is likely to lead to further disease spread over time. Additional industry support and involvement is



needed at this juncture to: 1) increase EP surveillance in Quarter Horse racehorses and, 2) assist in educational outreach to prevent the poor biosecurity practices which have led to continued spread by iatrogenic means in this population.

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In addition the United States Animal Health Association at their Annual Conference passed the following resolution.

RESOLUTION NUMBER: 15 and 45 Combined APPROVED

**SOURCE: COMMITTEE ON INFECTIOUS DISEASES OF HORSES
COMMITTEE ON PARASITIC AND VECTOR BORNE
DISEASES**

**SUBJECT MATTER: Equine Infectious Anemia and Equine Piroplasmiasis
Testing of Racing Quarter Horses**

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Racing Quarter Horses have been identified as a high-risk population of horses which pose a significant risk to the health of the national equine population. Since 2009, there have been 268 racing Quarter Horses confirmed positive for equine piroplasmiasis (EP), with 56 of the 268 confirmed since October of 2015. The 56 positive horses were located

all across the country including in the states of Arkansas (2), Arizona (3), California (1), Illinois (1), New Mexico (1), North Carolina (1), Tennessee (19), Texas (10) and Wyoming

(14). Additionally, since 2012, at least 59 racing Quarter Horses have been confirmed positive for equine infectious anemia in states of California (39), Texas (5), Washington (10), Oregon (4), and Oklahoma (1). Epidemiologic investigations into these cases have indicated iatrogenic transmission of disease through high risk practices of trainers and owners. The failure to promptly identify positive animals poses a significant risk to the United States (US) equine population as the retired racing Quarter Horses travel across the US to be used as pleasure horses, roping or rodeo horses, barrel horses, show horses or ranch horses. Of concern regarding equine piroplasmiasis, the US free status is

at risk if identification and control measures are not implemented. Although it is acknowledged that imposing testing requirements on racing Quarter Horses prior to entry



into a racing venue will impose an increased owner expense, the threat of the loss of US free status for EP, and the threat of allowing permanent establishment of a new disease into the US horse industry poses an even greater economic risk to the US equine industries.

RESOLUTION:

The United States Animal Health Association (USAHA) urges state animal health officials and Quarter Horse racing jurisdictions to impose equine infectious anemia (EIA) and equine piroplasmiasis (EP) testing requirements for Quarter Horses entering a racing venue. Additionally, USAHA urges the American Quarter Horse Association to encourage the EIA and EP testing of racing Quarter Horses and assist in the education of the racing Quarter Horse owners and trainers as to the risks of the diseases. Lastly, the USAHA urges the United States Department of Agriculture, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Veterinary Services to continue to compile national epidemiologic EIA and EP data for the high-risk group of horses and provide outreach information to states and industry regarding this issue.

For the above reasons the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office recommends testing for Equine Piroplasmiasis within 30 days of entry into Arapahoe Park.

