



PATHOLOGY POTPOURRI: EQUINE EDITION

Dr. Brianne Taylor DVM, MS, DACVP

November 9, 2023

OUTLINE

- About me
- Submitting to a diagnostic lab
- Potpourri of cases

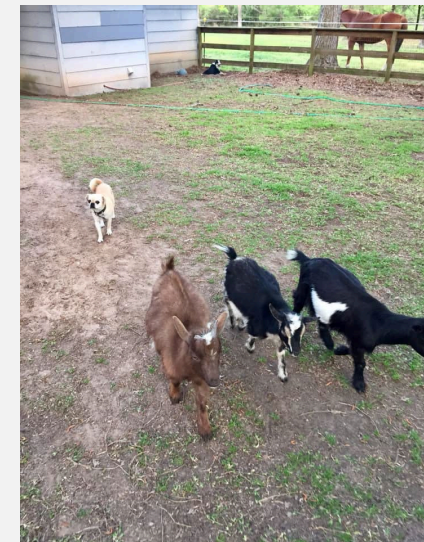
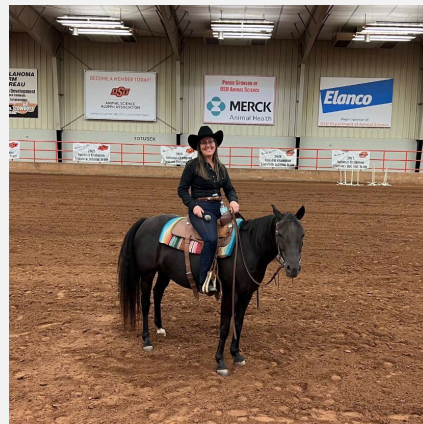
POTPOURRI



Dr. Tim Snider



ABOUT ME



ABOUT ME

- I am NOT an equine practitioner
 - More of an “enthusiast”
- Serve as the liaison between OADDL and the Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission (OHRC)
- Also serve as OADDL’s toxicology “consultant”
 - Again, I’m NOT a toxicologist but rather an enthusiast

Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Program

January 1 – December 31, 2022

Supported by the
Oklahoma Horse Racing Commission
Oklahoma-Breeding & Development Program



Conducted by the Oklahoma Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory
College of Veterinary Medicine
Oklahoma State University
Stillwater, OK
May 9, 2023

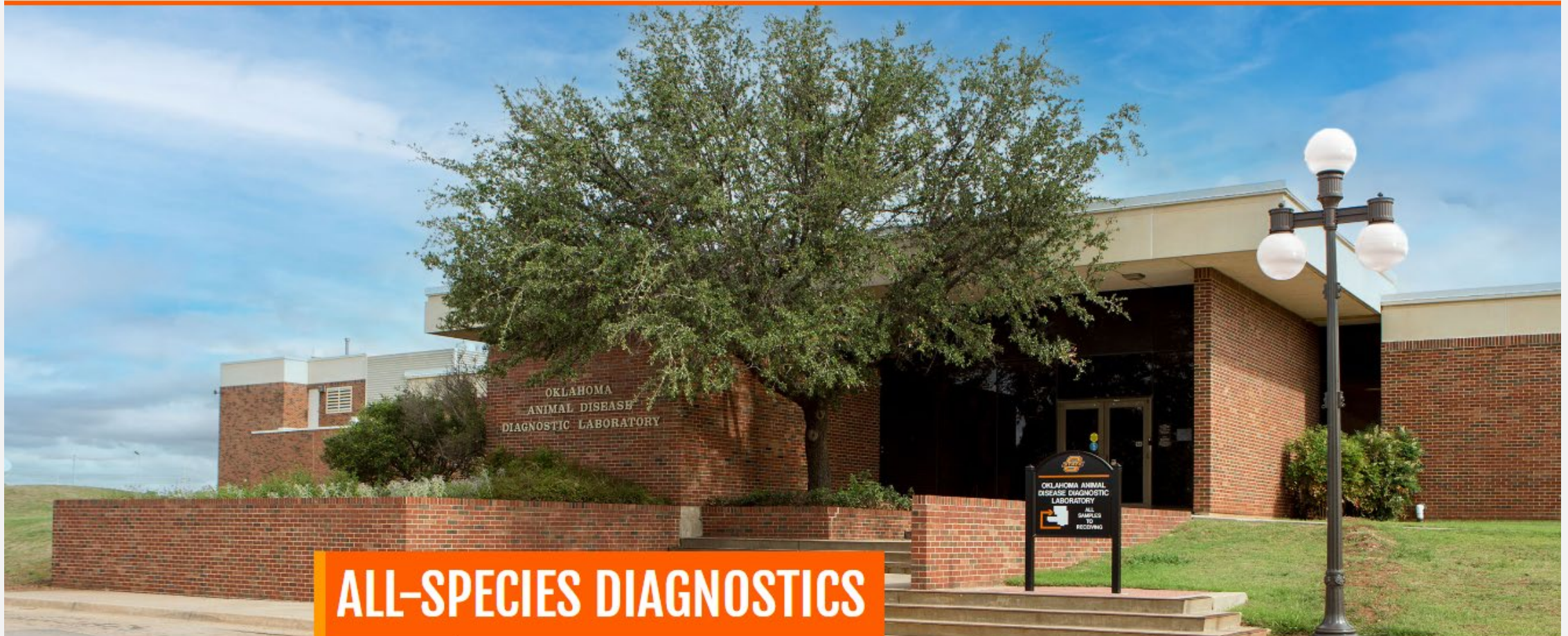


COLLEGE OF
VETERINARY MEDICINE



OKLAHOMA ANIMAL DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY

[ABOUT](#) [TESTING](#) [ACCESS RESULTS](#) [CONTACT US](#) [GIVING](#) [ANIMAL CENSUS MAP](#) [DISEASE MAPS](#)



ALL-SPECIES DIAGNOSTICS

Promoting the overall well-being of animal health through veterinary diagnostic testing, instruction of professional students, and research in diseases of economic importance to Oklahoma and beyond.

SUBMITTAL FORM

TESTS REQUESTED

For a complete list of tests and specimen requirements, see test catalog at <http://oadd.okstate.edu>

| BACTERIOLOGY / MYCOLOGY | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerobic Culture with up to 2 Susceptibility Profiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Salmonella Culture with Susceptibility Profile (serogrouping upon request) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anaerobic & Aerobic Culture with up to 2 Susceptibility Profile | <input type="checkbox"/> Salmonella Culture - Environmental (Stalls, barns, litter) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fungal & Aerobic Culture with up to 2 Susceptibility Profiles | <input type="checkbox"/> Urine Culture with Susceptibility (cystitis or catheter collected only) | TOXICOLOGY | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aerobic Culture only | <input type="checkbox"/> Bacterial Isolate ID by MALDI-TOF | <input type="checkbox"/> Fungal Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-Green Algae |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anaerobic Culture only | <input type="checkbox"/> Campylobacter fecal Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Milk Culture & Susceptibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Prussic Acid/Cyanide |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antibiotic Susceptibility | <input type="checkbox"/> Clostridial Culture | <input type="checkbox"/> Mycoplasma bovis Culture | |
| PARASITOLOGY | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Baermann | <input type="checkbox"/> Fecal Egg Count | <input type="checkbox"/> Giardia AG | <input type="checkbox"/> Modified Knotts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centrifugal Floation & Direct Smear | <input type="checkbox"/> McMaster | <input type="checkbox"/> Gross Parasite ID | <input type="checkbox"/> Sedimentation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coproculture (Larvae ID) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wisconsin | <input type="checkbox"/> Heartworm AG (Pre & Post Heat Treated) | <input type="checkbox"/> Tick ID |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Centrifugal Floation | <input type="checkbox"/> Feline Heartworm Ag | <input type="checkbox"/> Hemoparasite Exam (Wright-Giemsa) | |
| AVIAN | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Avian Influenza | <input type="checkbox"/> Exotic Newcastle Disease | <input type="checkbox"/> Mycoplasma gallisepticum/M synoviae | <input type="checkbox"/> Salmonella pullorum-typhoid |
| <input type="checkbox"/> AGID <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> Agglutination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Microagglutination Titer |
| BOVINE | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea Panel - Aerobic Culture with Susceptibility, Clostridium perfringens Culture, Salmonella Culture, Rotavirus Group A, Coronavirus PCR, Fecal Float, Smear | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Abortion (Serology) - Leptospirosis, IBR, BVD, SN, BVD-ELISA, Brucella, Neospora | <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine ELISA Panel - IBR, BVD, SN, BVD-2 (7 Animal Health) | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Respiratory SN Profile 1 - IBR, BVD-1, PHL, BRSV | <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Respiratory SN Profile 2 - IBR, BVD-1, BVD-2, PHL, BRSV | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Respiratory Panel PCR - Basic - IBR, BVD, BRSV | <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Respiratory Panel PCR - Comprehensive - IBR, BRSV, BVD, M, BVD, IBR | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anaplasma marginale | <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus | <input type="checkbox"/> IBR | <input type="checkbox"/> Neospora spp (ELISA) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> SN | <input type="checkbox"/> SN | <input type="checkbox"/> Parainfluenza 3 (P3) Virus SN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy ELISA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue-tongue | <input type="checkbox"/> Brucella abortus / B. suis | <input type="checkbox"/> John's (Submit individual samples) | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotavirus Group A Card |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Viral Diarrhea (BVD) | <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> Trichomonas foetus |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA (PII) | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR - Individual | <input type="checkbox"/> (Submit individual Samples) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Coronavirus PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Type 1 SN | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR - Pooled in Lab | <input type="checkbox"/> Culture (in Pouch TF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bovine Leukemia Virus | <input type="checkbox"/> Type 2 SN | <input type="checkbox"/> Leptospira spp. | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR (PBS or in Pouch TF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> MAT - 5 servers | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR - Pooled in Lab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> General Herpes Virus PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequencing (if Positive) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mycoplasma bovis PCR | |
| CANINE | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea Panel - Aerobic Culture with Susceptibility, Clostridium perfringens Culture, Salmonella Culture, Campylobacter jejuni Culture, Parvovirus PCR, Fecal Float, Smear | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brucella canis IFA | <input type="checkbox"/> Canine Influenza PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Leptospira spp. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever IFA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canine Distemper PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Canine Parvovirus PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> MAT - 5 servers | <input type="checkbox"/> Tick Profile (Serology) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canine Herpesvirus PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Ehrlichia spp. | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Ehrlichia canis, RMSF, Lyme, Anaplasma |
| CAPRINE / OVINE | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea Panel - Aerobic Culture with Susceptibility, Clostridium perfringens Culture, Salmonella Culture, Fecal Float, Smear | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biosecurity Panel - CAE, CL, John's | <input type="checkbox"/> Brucella abortus / B. suis | <input type="checkbox"/> John's (Submit individual Samples) | <input type="checkbox"/> Leptospira spp. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bawdington | <input type="checkbox"/> Brucella melitensis | <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> MAT - 5 servers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> BVD PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> CAE/OPP/SRLV | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR - Pooled in Lab | <input type="checkbox"/> Pregnancy ELISA |
| EQUINE | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea Panel - Aerobic Culture with Susceptibility, Clostridium perfringens Culture, Salmonella Culture, Rotavirus Group A, Coronavirus PCR, Fecal Float, Smear | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ehrlichia PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> General Herpesvirus PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Piroplasmiasis, Babesia caballi-ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EIA ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequencing (if Positive) | <input type="checkbox"/> Piroplasmiasis, Theileria equi-ELISA | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equine Herpesvirus 1 PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Leptospira spp. | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotavirus Group A - Immunocatch Test | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equine Herpesvirus 4 PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> MAT - 5 servers | <input type="checkbox"/> Streptococcus equi PCR | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equine Influenza PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | | |
| FELINE | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea Panel - Aerobic Culture with Susceptibility, Clostridium perfringens Culture, Salmonella Culture, Campylobacter jejuni Culture, Parvovirus PCR, Fecal Float, Smear | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cryptosporidium felis PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Feline Parvovirus/Teniplexigen PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Francisella tularensis "Tularemia" PCR | |
| PORCINE | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea Panel - Suckling/Nursery - Aerobic Culture with Susceptibility, Rotavirus Group A, Coronavirus PCR (TGE, PEDV, SDCov), Fecal Float, Smear | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea Panel - Grower/Finisher - Aerobic Culture with Susceptibility, Salmonella Culture, Coronavirus PCR (TGE, PEDV, SDCov), Fecal Float, Smear, Leukemia & B. thypsiophis hyodysenteriae / B. hammondi PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Leptospira spp. | <input type="checkbox"/> PRRS Virus | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brucella abortus / Pseudorabies qd ELISA Panel | <input type="checkbox"/> MAT - 5 servers | <input type="checkbox"/> ELISA | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brucella abortus / B. suis | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR - NA/EU | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coronavirus Multiplex PCR - PEDV, TGEV, SDCov | <input type="checkbox"/> Pseudorabies qd ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> Swine Influenza Virus PCR | |

SUBMITTAL FORM

The list is somewhat short for horses!

| EQUINE | | |
|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Diarrhea Panel - <i>Aerobic Culture with Susceptibility, Clostridium perfringens Culture, Salmonella Culture, Rotavirus Group A, Coronavirus PCR, Fecal Float, Smear</i> | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ehrlichia PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> General Herpesvirus PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> Piroplasmosis, <i>Babesia caballi</i> c-ELISA <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EIA ELISA | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequencing (if Positive) | <input type="checkbox"/> Piroplasmosis, <i>Theileria equi</i> c-ELISA |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equine Herpesvirus 1 PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Leptospira spp.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Rotavirus Group A - Immunocard Test |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equine Herpesvirus 4 PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> MAT - 5 serovers | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Streptococcus equi</i> PCR |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equine Influenza PCR | <input type="checkbox"/> PCR | |

Abortion panel

| EQUINE | \$250.00 |
|---|----------|
| Necropsy with disposal (whole fetus & placenta) | |
| Placenta examination | |
| Histopathology | |
| Bacteriology (pooled aerobic culture on lung & stomach fluid) | |
| Molecular Diagnostics / PCR (EHV on liver; EVA on lung – referral lab) | |

Diarrhea panel

| EQUINE | \$185.00 |
|---|----------|
| Aerobic culture with antibiotic susceptibility | |
| <i>Clostridium perfringens</i> culture with toxin typing by PCR | |
| <i>Salmonella</i> culture with antibiotic susceptibility | |
| Rotavirus group A, Immunocard test (only performed on animals < 6 months) | |
| Centrifugal fecal flotation; direct fecal smear with staining | |

FIELD NECROPSY

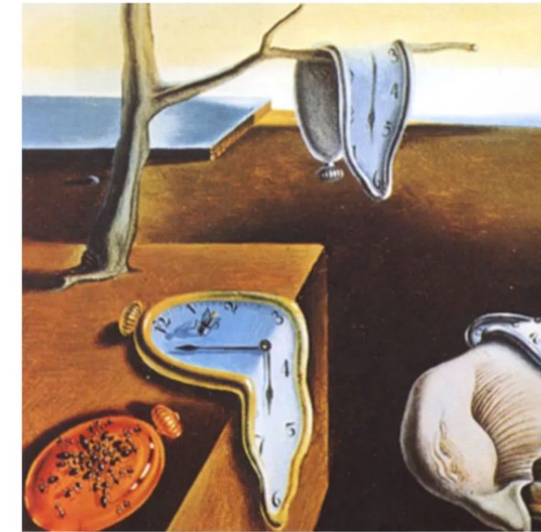


Ok, so this is a rebreathing bag, but you get the idea...

Fig. 1. Equipment.

TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE

- Autolysis (rot) is our worst enemy!
 - Precludes gross/histologic evaluation
 - Infectious agents can degrade
 - Toxicants are often stable
 - Some are NOT (e.g., cyanide)
- Autolysis is accelerated by
 - Ambient temperature
 - Obese body condition
 - Fever and inflammation



FIELD NECROPSY

THE NECROPSY BOOK

A Guide for Veterinary Students, Residents, Clinicians, Pathologists, and Biological Researchers

Revised January 2013

by
John M. King
Lois Roth-Johnson
David C. Dodd
Marion E. Newsom

Field Necropsy of the Horse



Chad Frank, DVM, MSc*, Dennis J. Madden, BS,
Colleen Duncan, DVM, MSc, PhD

KEYWORDS

• Equine • Necropsy • Postmortem examination • Mortality • Investigation

KEY POINTS

- Prior to initiating a necropsy, consideration should be given to equipment, location, sampling, disposal and clean up.
- Use of a standardized approach will enable the practitioner to be better prepared to identify true pathologic lesions versus changes of minimal significance.
- On completion of the necropsy, observations should be recorded and assessed in the context of any clinical questions.
- If necessary, formalin-fixed and/or fresh tissues may be submitted to a diagnostic laboratory for further evaluation.
- In addition to the biologic samples, the laboratory-specific submission form should be completed including a brief history and necropsy findings along with specific diagnostic test requests or questions.

INTRODUCTION

This article provides an overview of the equine necropsy that can be used by veterinarians in the field. Use of a systematic process enables the practitioner to develop a familiarity with normal anatomic positioning and tissue appearance such that abnormalities are quickly identified. Although an exhaustive review of equine pathology is beyond the scope of this article, there are several excellent resources on equine pathology^{1,2} that may be used to aid in the interpretation of changes identified. Additionally, several articles elsewhere in this issue focus on disease processes in specific body systems.

Field Versus Laboratory Examination

Logistical factors often influence the decision to perform the postmortem examination in the field or have the carcass transported to a diagnostic laboratory with necropsy

Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Colorado State University, 300 West Drake Avenue, Fort Collins, CO 80524, USA

* Corresponding author.

E-mail address: chad.frank@colostate.edu

Vet Clin Equine 31 (2015) 233–245
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.cveq.2015.04.002>

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vetequine.theclinics.com

MEDICINE—RESPIRATORY/CARDIOVASCULAR

How to Perform an Equine Field Necropsy

Sally L. Ness, DVM; and
Fairfield T. Bain, DVM, MBA, Diplomate ACVIM, ACVP, ACVECC

Authors' addresses: 91370 Walluski Loop, Astoria, Oregon 97107 (Ness); and Equine Sports Medicine & Surgery, PO Box 1569, Weatherford, Texas 76087 (Bain); e-mail: sally_ness@yahoo.com
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A WORD ON SAMPLE COLLECTION

BACTERIAL

- Culture
 - Aerobic → respiratory, *E. coli*
 - Anaerobic → *Clostridium* spp.
 - Others → what do you suspect?



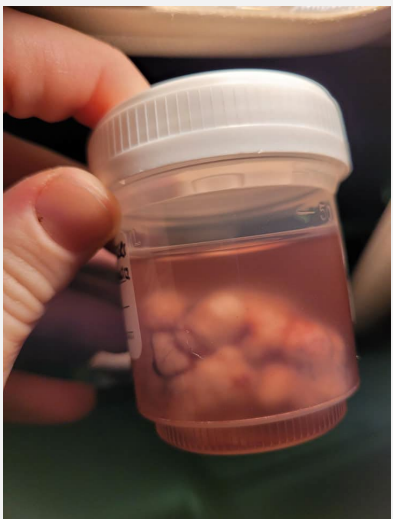
VIRAL (MOSTLY)

- Molecular (PCR)
 - NO media!
 - Swab +/- 0.5 ml saline
 - Fresh tissue

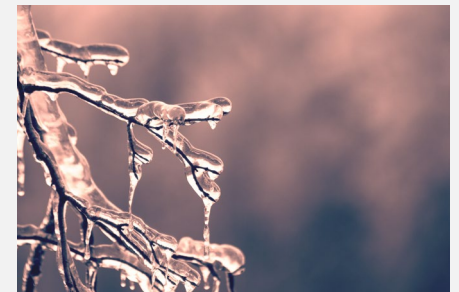
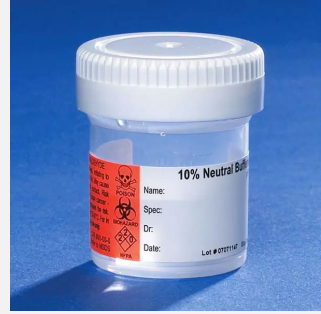


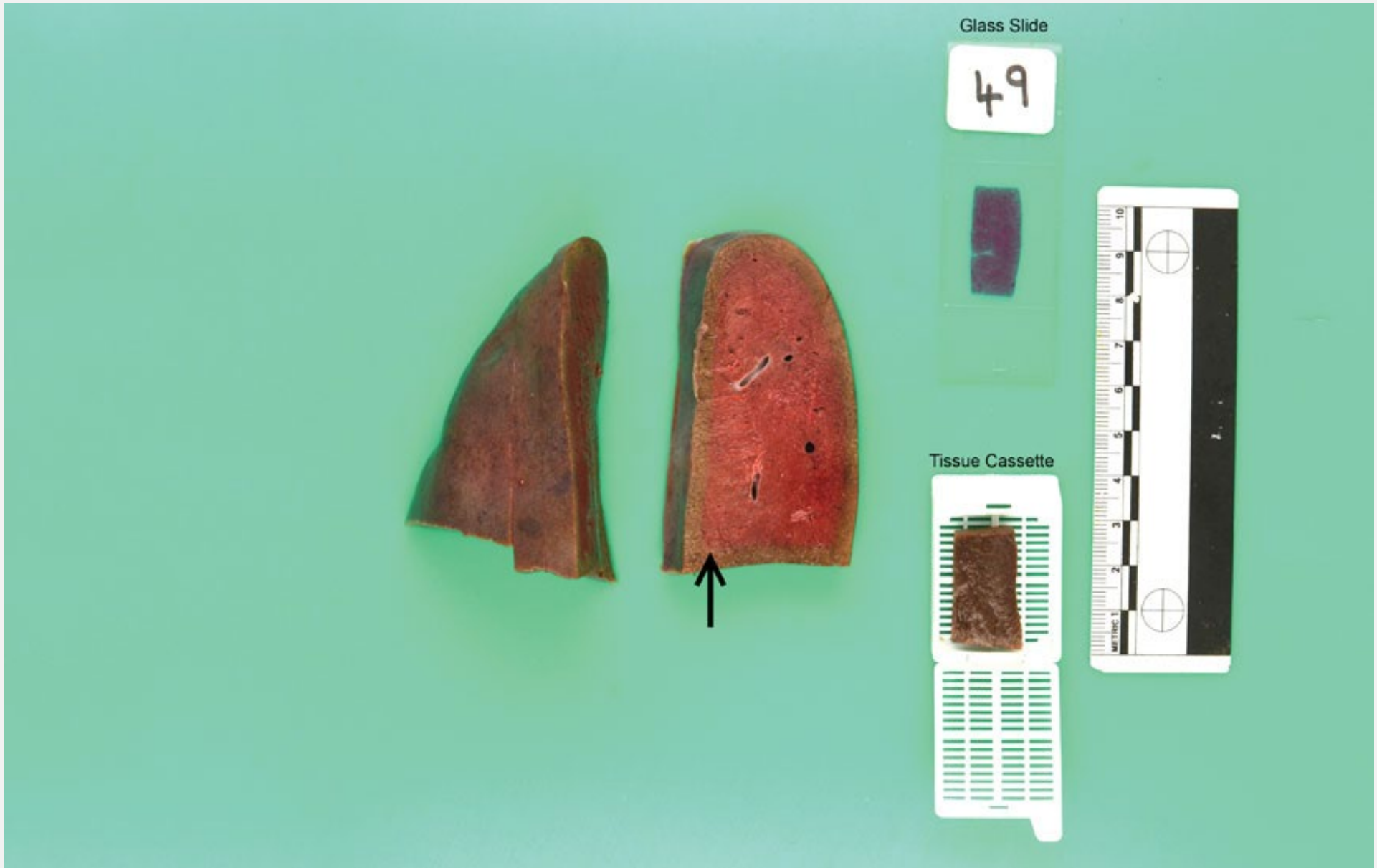
FORMALIN-FIXED SAMPLES

- 10% formalin
- 1:10 ratio tissue to formalin
- 1 cm³

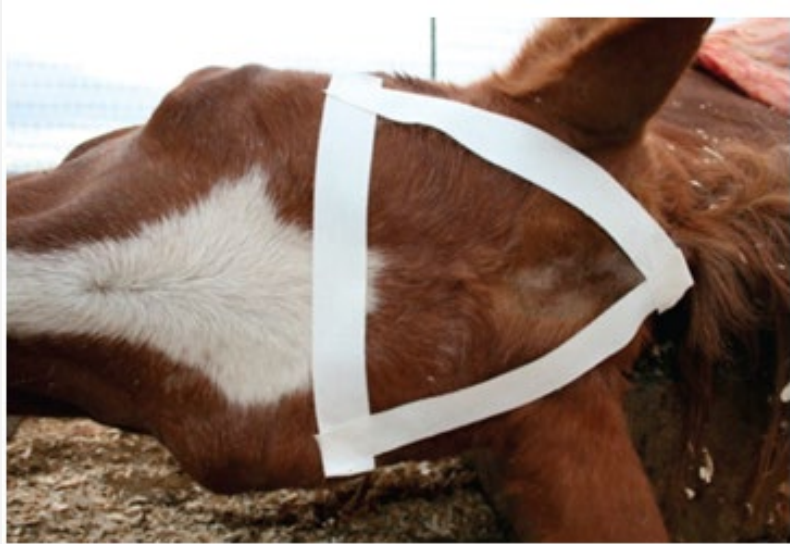


Note: in winter months, 1:10 ratio ethanol to formalin to prevent freezing!



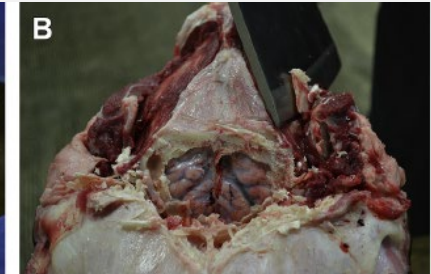


THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO ~~SKIN A CAT~~ GET THE BRAIN OUT



Ness SL, Bain FT (2009). How to perform an equine field necropsy.
AAEP Proceedings Vol. 55.

Pretty please
submit the
WHOLE brain



Frank C, Madden DJ, Duncan C.
Field Necropsy of the Horse. Vet
Clin North Am Equine Pract. 2015
Aug;31(2):233-45.

ON THAT NOTE...

- You're called out to see an 8-year-old gelding who recently traveled to Florida for a competition
- Unknown vaccine status
- Temperature: 104.5
- Acute onset of severe neurologic deficits

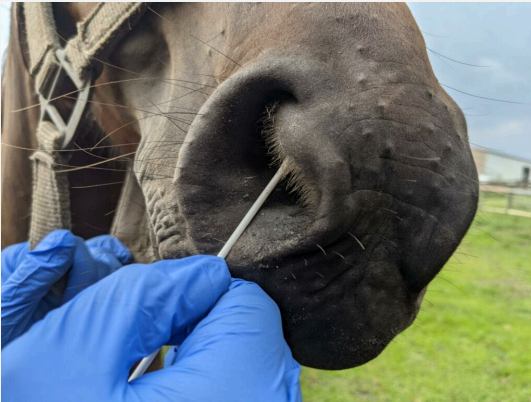


DIFFERENTIALS?

- Viral
 - Rabies (always at the top of the list, right?)
 - West Nile Virus
 - The encephalitides: EEE, WEE, VEE
 - EHV
 - Bacterial
 - Parasitic
 - EPM
 - Halicephalobus gingivalis
 - Others?
 - Toxic
 - ELEM
 - NPE
 - Locoweed
 - Hepatic encephalopathy
 - Degenerative
 - EDM
 - EMND
 - Neoplastic
- Do your differentials change if this were more subacute or chronic onset...?
 - Are any of these zoonotic?

WHAT TO SUBMIT?

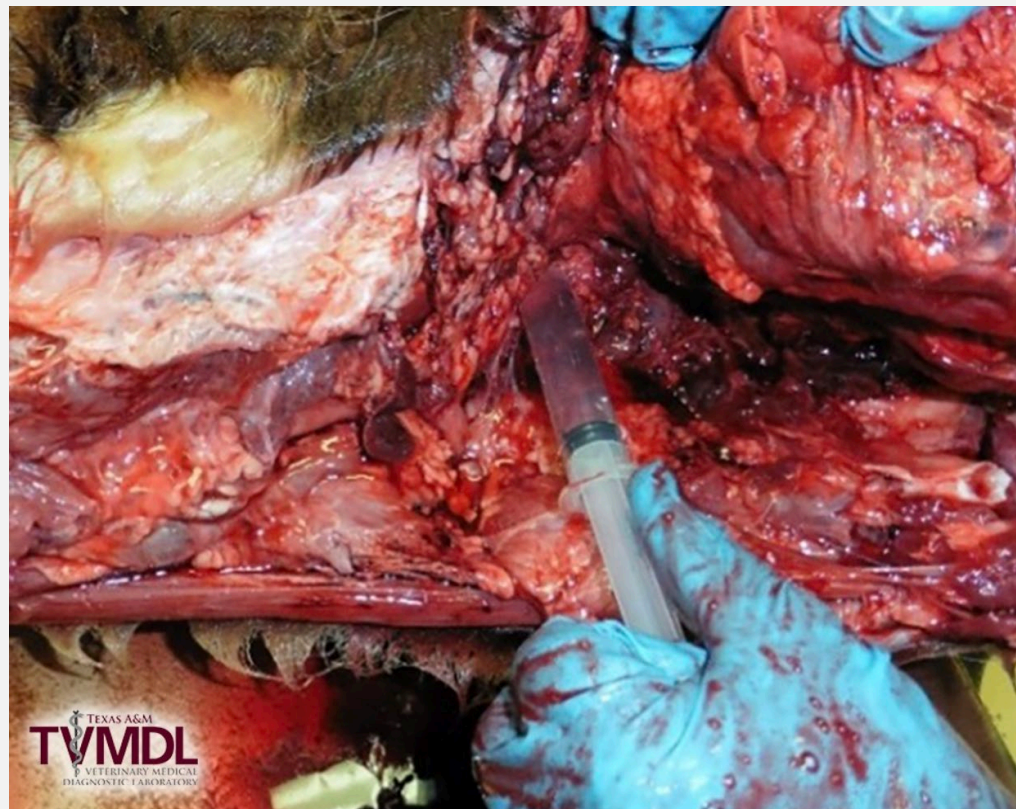
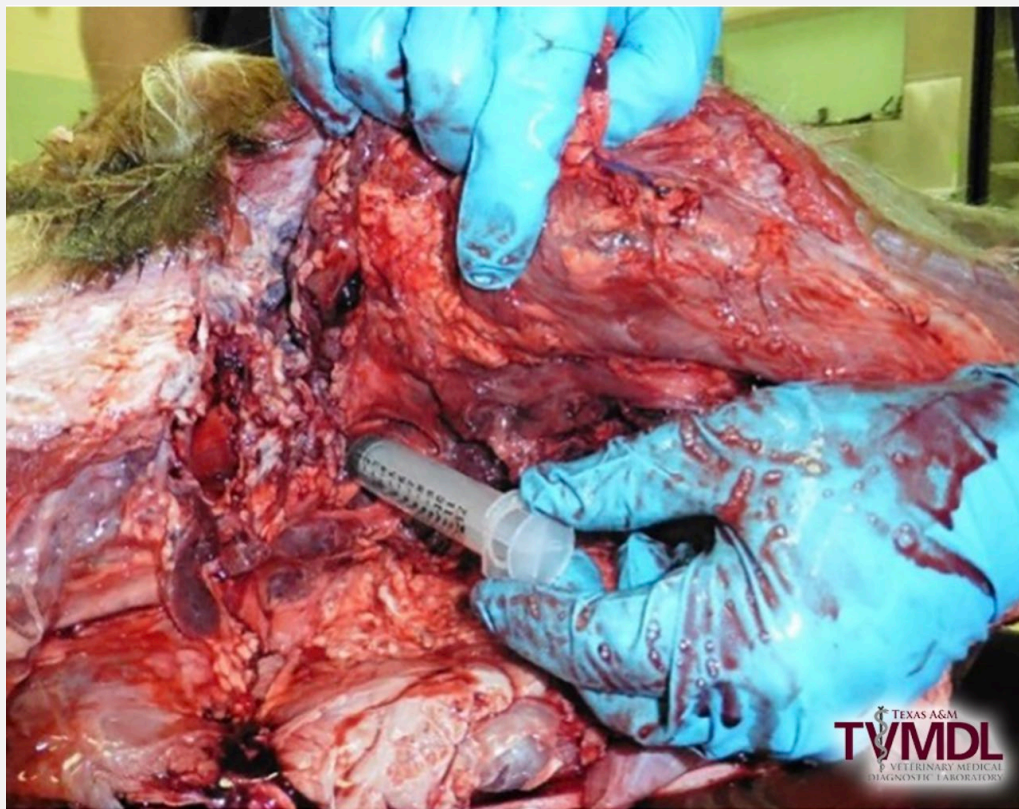
ANTEMORTEM



POSTMORTEM



CSF COLLECTION



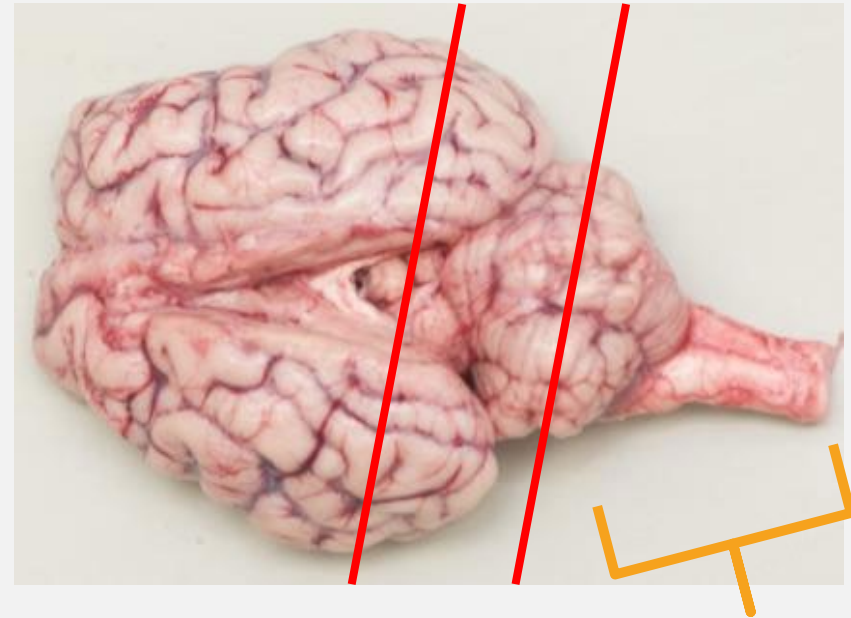
VIRAL ENCEPHALITIS

- Rabies
- West Nile Virus
- The encephalitides
 - WEE
 - EEE
 - VEE
- EHV



VIRAL ENCEPHALITIS

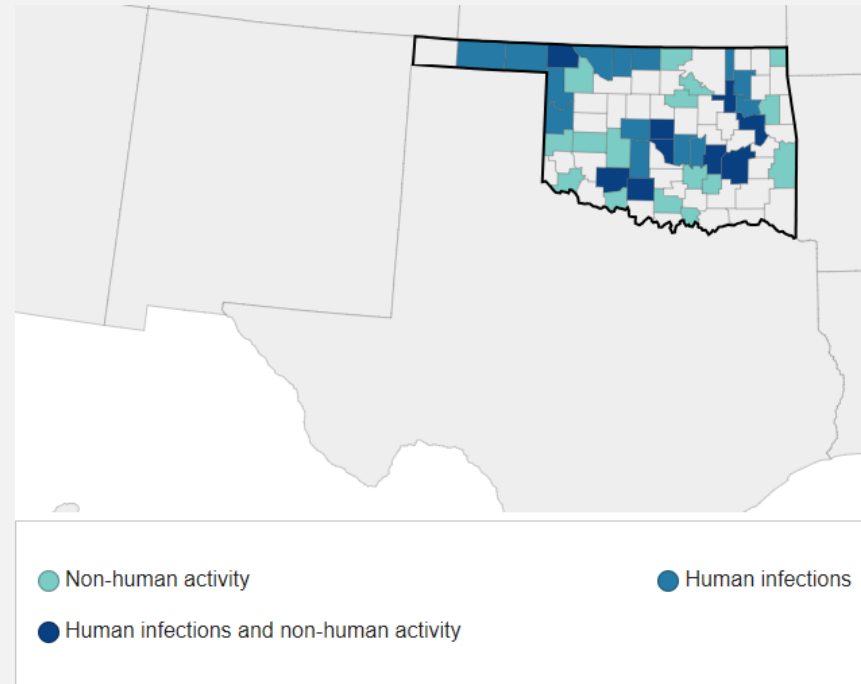
- **Rabies**
- West Nile Virus
- The encephalitides
 - WEE
 - EEE
 - VEE
- EHV



Where the magic happens
in a lot of equine neuro 😊

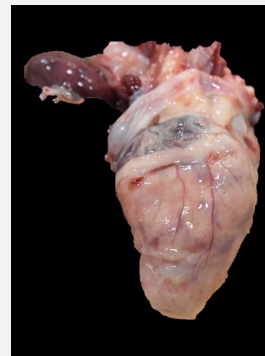
VIRAL ENCEPHALITIS

- Rabies
- **West Nile Virus**
- The encephalitides
 - WEE
 - EEE
 - VEE
- EHV

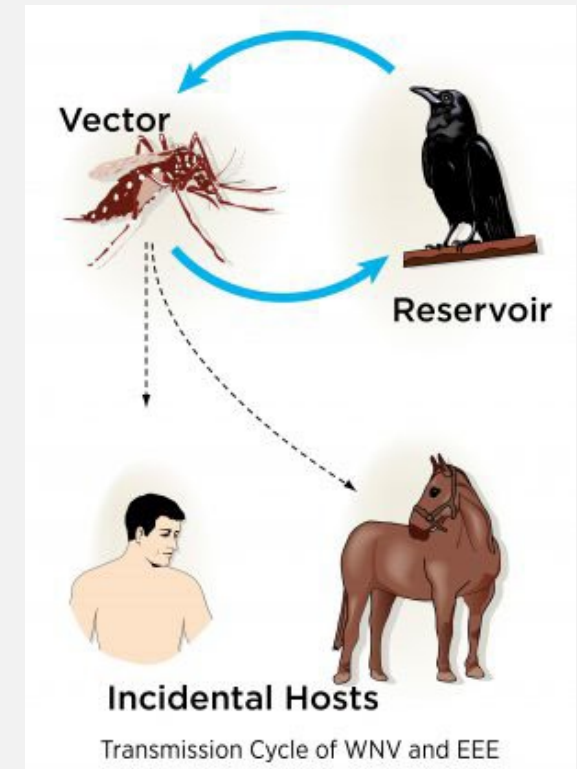


WEST NILE VIRUS

- Transmission
 - Mosquito-bird lifecycle
 - Humans and horses are dead-end hosts
 - Other species (e.g. dogs) can be infected
- Incubation period: 3-15 days
- Encephalitis, myocarditis



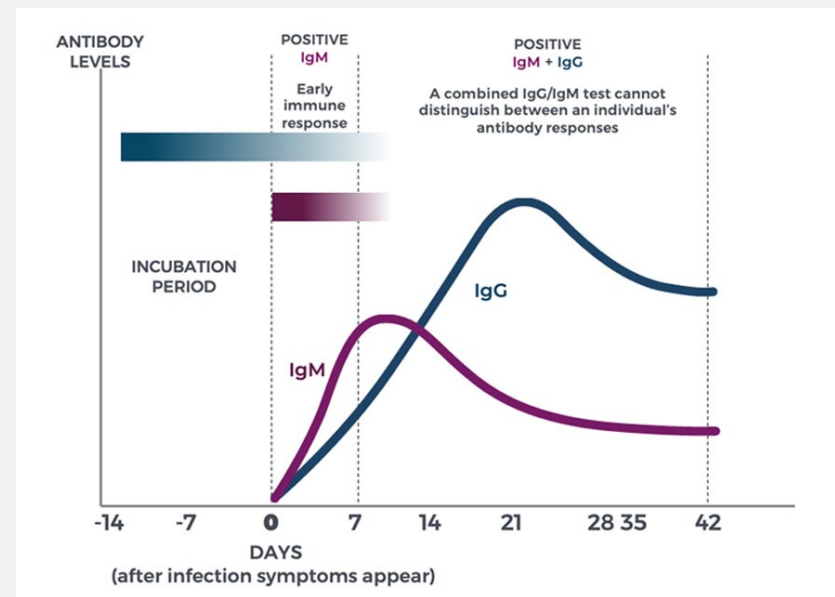
Ji-Hang Yin, Auburn University



WEST NILE VIRUS



- At OADDL
 - PCR
 - 1 POSITIVE so far in 2023
 - Serology
 - 2022: 7 IgM POSITIVES out of 41 tested
 - So far in 2023: 10 IgM POSITIVES out of 35 tested



Small window of potential false negatives...

HOW TO DIAGNOSE

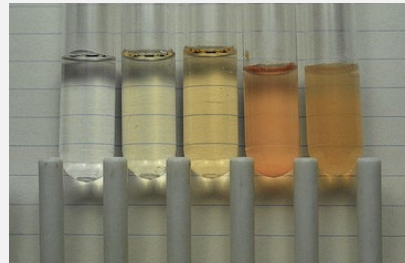
ANTEMORTEM

- Serum for IgM
- CSF for PCR



POSTMORTEM

- Brain or CSF for PCR



VIRAL ENCEPHALITIS

- Rabies
- West Nile Virus
- **The encephalitides**
 - WEE
 - EEE
 - VEE
- EHV



HOW TO DIAGNOSE

ANTEMORTEM

- Serum for IgM
- CSF for PCR



POSTMORTEM

- Brain or CSF for PCR



SPOILER ALERT

- Remember that horse from Florida...?
- EEE positive

HHS and USDA Select Agents and Toxins

7 CFR Part 331, 9 CFR Part 121, and 42 CFR Part 73

The following biological agents and toxins have been determined to have the potential to pose a severe threat to both human and animal health, to plant health, or to animal and plant products. An attenuated strain of a select agent or an inactive form of a select toxin may be excluded from the requirements of the regulations.

More information can be found at <https://www.selectagents.gov/sat/list.htm>

HHS Select Agents and Toxins

- 1) Abrin
- 2) *Bacillus cereus* Biovar *anthracis**
- 3) Botulinum neurotoxins*
- 4) Botulinum neurotoxin producing species of *Clostridium**
- 5) Conotoxins (Short, paralytic alpha conotoxins containing the following amino acid sequence X₁CCX₂PACGX₃X₄X₅CK₆)
- 6) *Coxiella burnetii*
- 7) Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus
- 8) Diacetoxyscirpenol
- 9) Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus
- 10) Ebola virus*
- 11) *Francisella tularensis**
- 12) Lassa fever virus
- 13) Lujo virus
- 14) Marburg virus*
- 15) Mpox virus

- 16) Reconstructed replication competent forms of the 1918 pandemic influenza virus containing any portion of the coding regions of all eight gene segments (Reconstructed 1918 Influenza virus)
- 17) Ricin
- 18) *Rickettsia prowazekii*
- 19) SARS-associated coronavirus (SARS-CoV)
- 20) SARS-CoV/SARS-CoV-2 chimeric viruses resulting from any deliberate manipulation of SARS-CoV-2 to incorporate nucleic acids coding for SARS-CoV virulence factors
- 21) Saxitoxin

South American Haemorrhagic Fever viruses:

- 22) Chapare
- 23) Guanarito
- 24) Junin
- 25) Machupo
- 26) Sabia



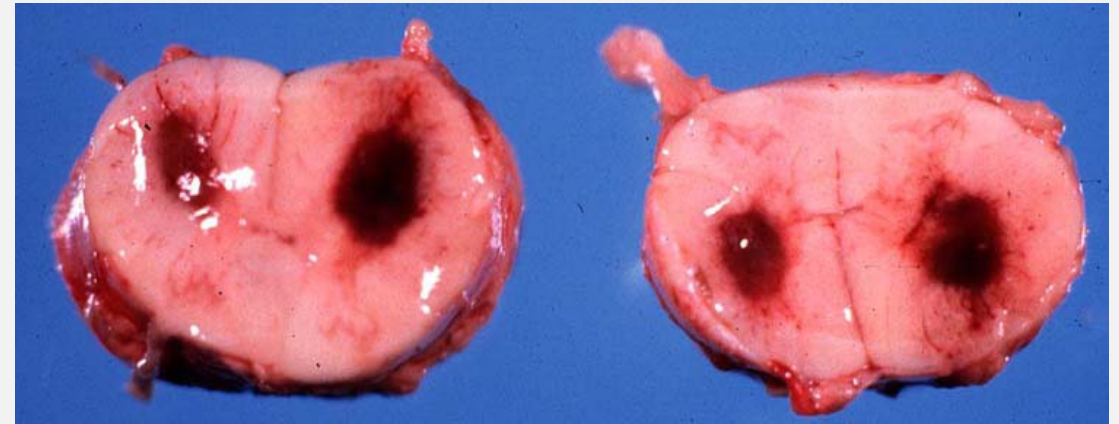
VIRAL ENCEPHALITIS

- Rabies
- West Nile Virus
- The encephalitides
 - WEE
 - EEE
 - VEE
- **EHV**



EHV

- EHV-1 >>>> EHV-4
 - Endotheliotropic, epitheliotropic, neurotropic
- Different strains
 - Neuropathic: G2254/D752
 - Non-neuropathic: A2254/N752
 - New variant: H752
- Incubation period is variable
 - Average 4-7 days

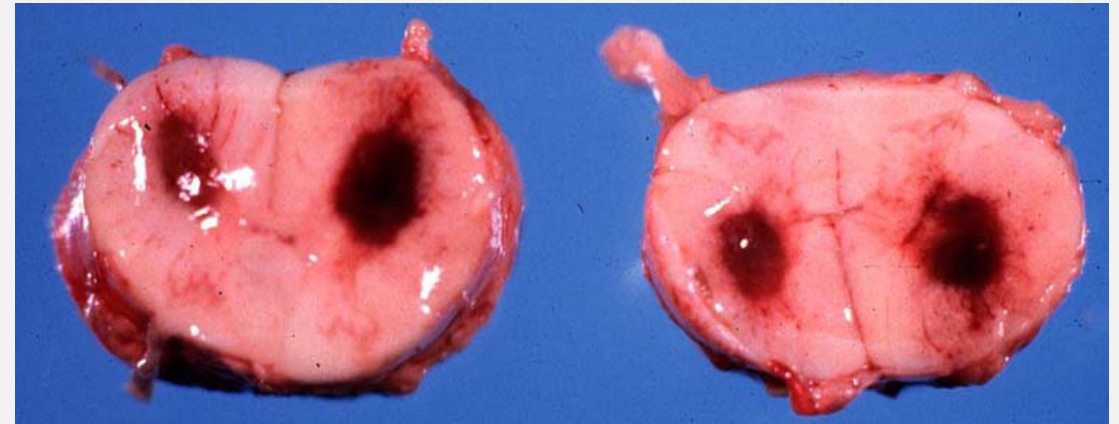


Not piggy snouts...



EHV

- EHM: Equine Herpesviral Myeloencephalopathy
 - 85% of cases due to mutated EHV-1
 - Unknown reason for mutation
- Vaccination does *not* prevent EHM but does reduce nasal shedding of virus
 - Shedding may last up to 1 month!
 - Unvaccinated horses with EHM shed LOADS of virus in nasal/pharyngeal secretions



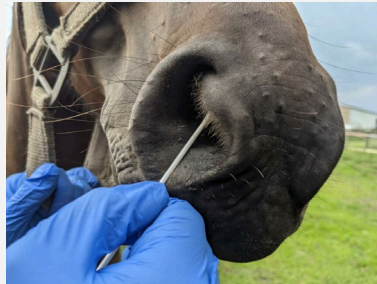
Not piggy snouts...



EHV DIAGNOSIS

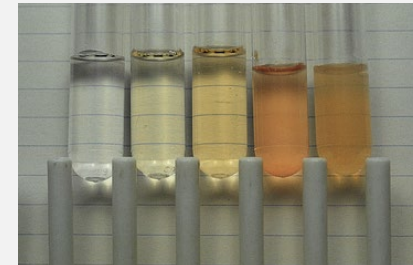
ANTEMORTEM

- Nasal swab for PCR
- EDTA blood for PCR
- CSF for PCR
- Serum for IgM



POSTMORTEM

- Brain or CSF for PCR



OADDL: 0 positives so far in 2023...



HERPESVIRUSES

- EHV-1
 - Neurologic disease
 - Abortion
 - Respiratory disease
- EHV-2
 - Mild pathogen?
- EHV-3
 - Equine coital exanthema
- EHV-4
 - Similar to EHV-1, but not as bad
 - Respiratory >>>> neuro or abortion
- EHV-5 and beyond...

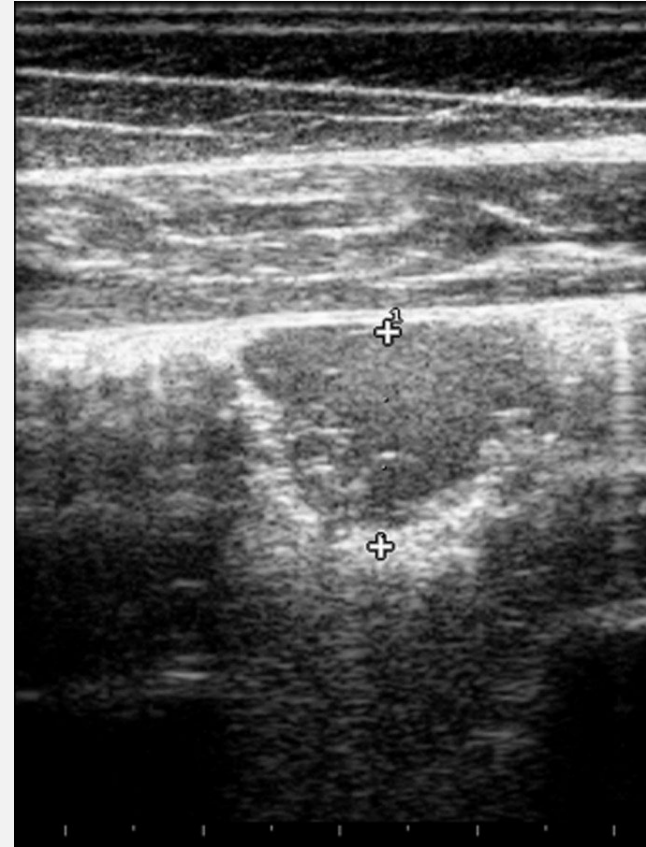
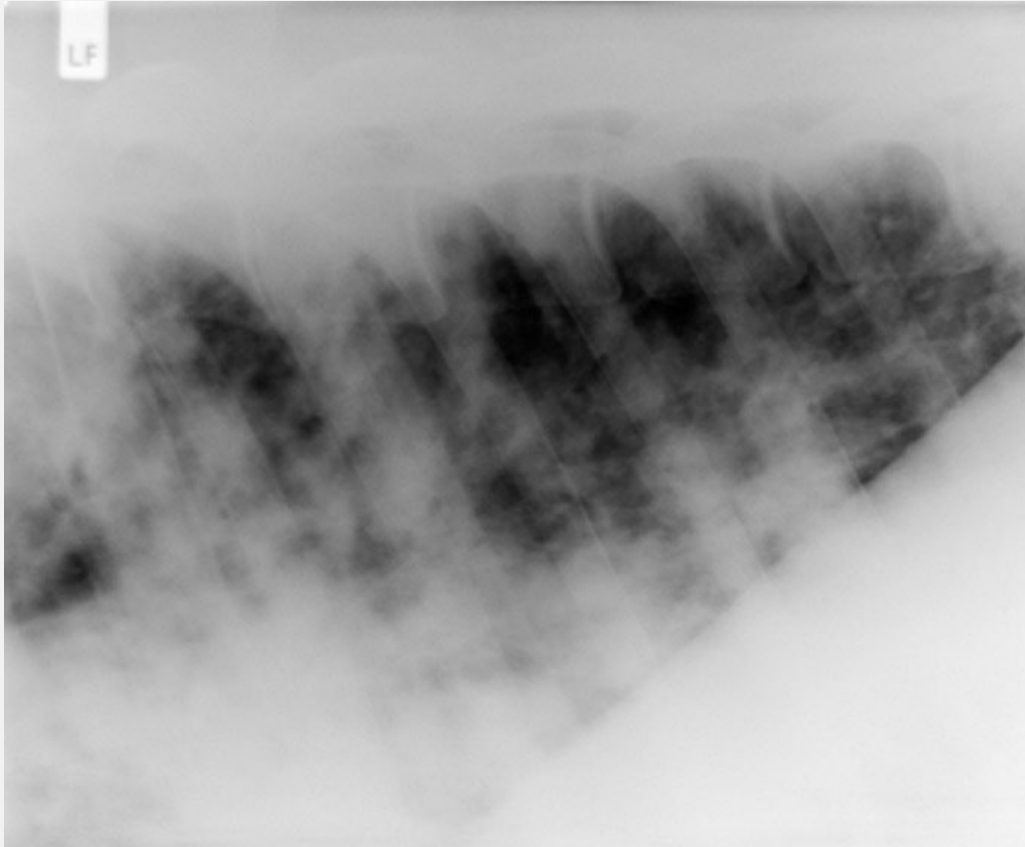


CASE WORK-UP

- A 14-year-old TB mare presents for chronic weight loss
- Clinical signs:
 - Mild fever
 - Mild nasal discharge
 - Increased respiratory rate and effort
 - “heave line”



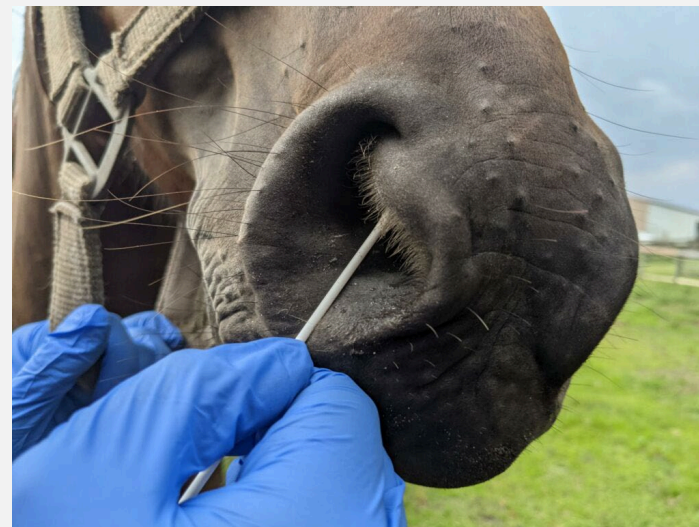
CASE WORK-UP



Spelta CW, Axon JE, Begg A, Diallo IS, Carrick JB, Russell CM, Collins NM. Equine multinodular pulmonary fibrosis in three horses in Australia. Aust Vet J. 2013 Jul;91(7):274-80.

DIFFERENTIALS

- Infectious
 - Viral
 - Bacterial
 - Fungal
 - Other?
- Immune-mediated
 - Asthma
 - Aka heaves aka COPD aka RAO
- Neoplastic
- Other?

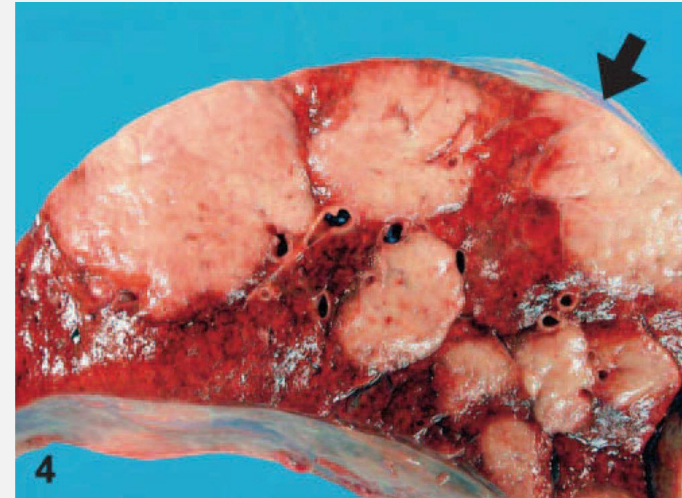


EHV-5

- Equine Multinodular Pulmonary Fibrosis (EMPF)
- Gammaherpesvirus
 - Proliferative rather than necrotizing (like EHV-1)
- Progressive histiocytic pneumonia and fibrosis



EHV-5

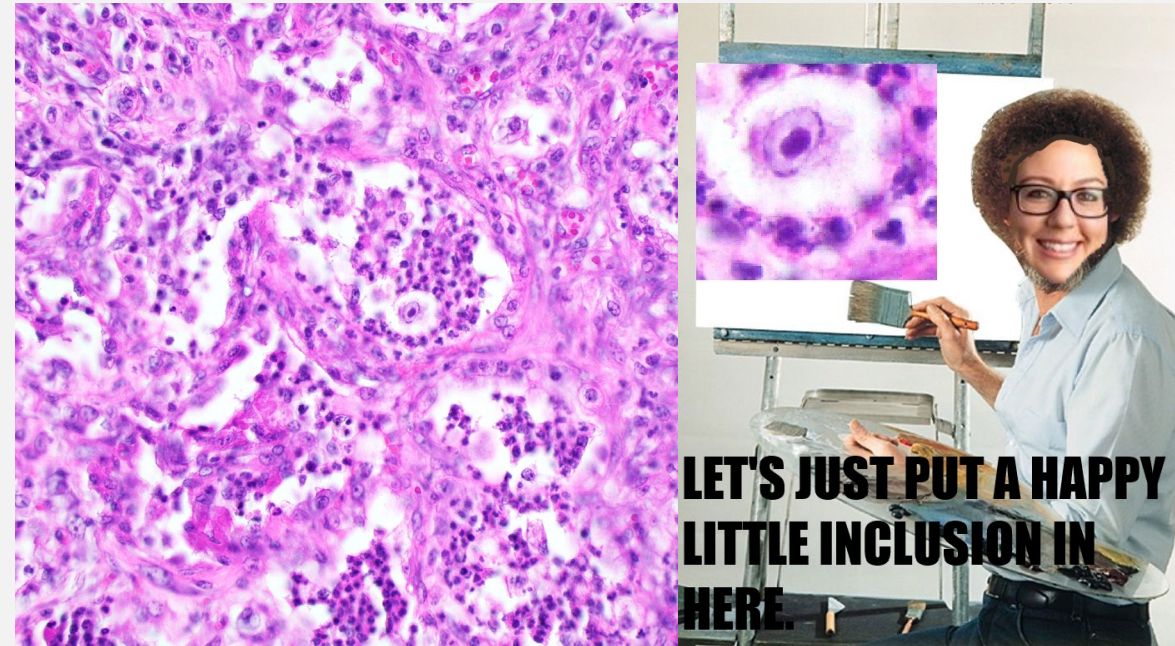


Williams KJ, et al. Equine multinodular pulmonary fibrosis: a newly recognized herpesvirus-associated fibrotic lung disease. Vet Pathol. 2007 Nov;44(6):849-62.

Multifocal to coalescing regions of chronic inflammation and fibrosis

EHV-5

- Diagnosis
 - Histopathology (gold standard)
- PCR
 - Antemortem
 - Blood
 - Nasal swab
 - BAL
 - Postmortem
 - Fresh lung tissue



Dr. Alex Ford

EHV-5

- Diagnosis
 - Histopathology (gold standard)

- PCR

- Antemortem

- Blood
 - Nasal swab
 - BAL



- Postmortem

- Fresh lung tissue

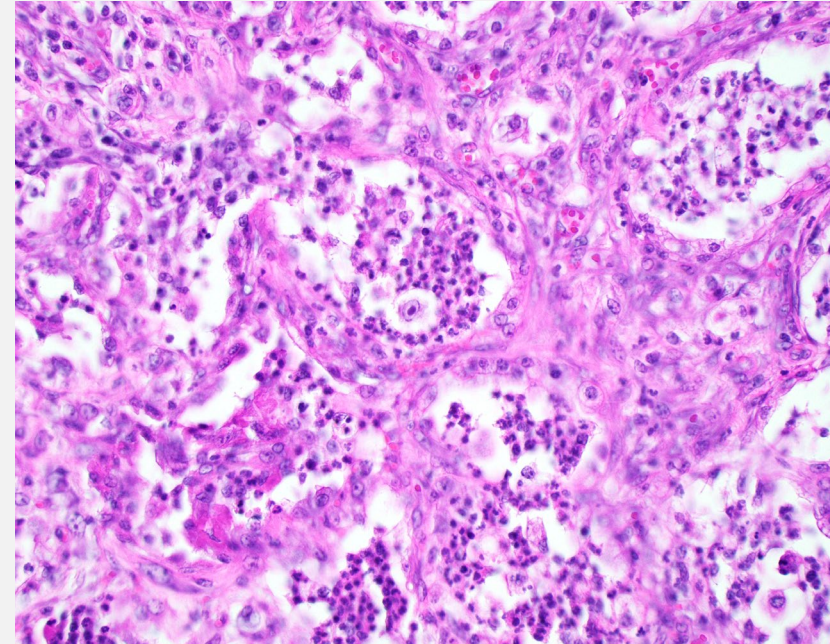
BAL or combo of blood and nasal secretions (Pusterla et al., 2015) shows high sensitivity and specificity

So far in 2023 at OADDL:

- 2 horses (postmortem histopath)
- “2 horses” (antemortem nasal swab)*

EHV-5

- Prognosis is fair to poor ☹️
- Treatment:
 - Vancyclovir
 - +/- corticosteroids
 - Steroids alone are contraindicated**
 - Supportive care



BACK TO BRAIN

- Viral
 - Rabies (always at the top of the list, right?)
 - West Nile Virus
 - The encephalitides: EEE, WEE, VEE
 - EHV
- Bacterial
- Parasitic
 - EPM
 - *Halicephalobus gingivalis*
 - Others?
- Toxic?
 - ELEM
 - NPE
 - Locoweed
 - Hepatic encephalopathy
- Degenerative
 - EDM
 - EMND
- Neoplastic

BACK TO BRAIN

- Viral
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EPM

- Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis

- *Sarcocystis neurona*

- Protozoa
- Definitive host: opossum



- *Neospora hughesi*

- Nearly identical protozoa
- Unknown DH



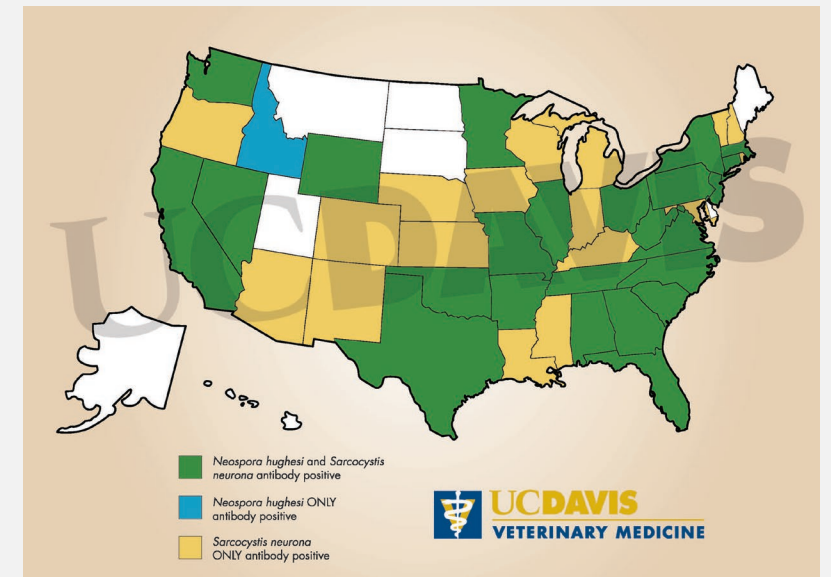
The 3 A's

1. Asymmetry
2. Ataxia
3. Atrophy



EPM

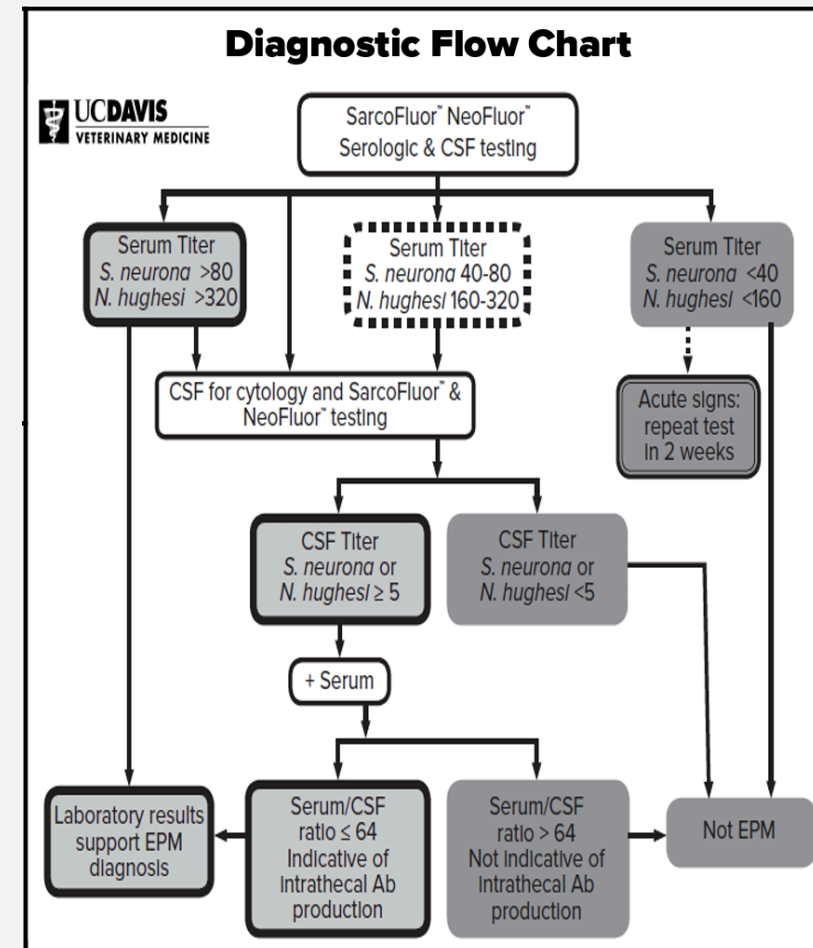
- Over 90% of horses in the US are seropositive for *S. neurona* and/or *N. hughesi*
 - Only a small subset of horses will develop EPM
- Widely variable time of onset, clinical signs, severity
 - Most cases show progression over time
 - Uncommon to be acute onset, but can happen
- Lots of differentials
 - CVSM (spinal cord involvement)



EPM

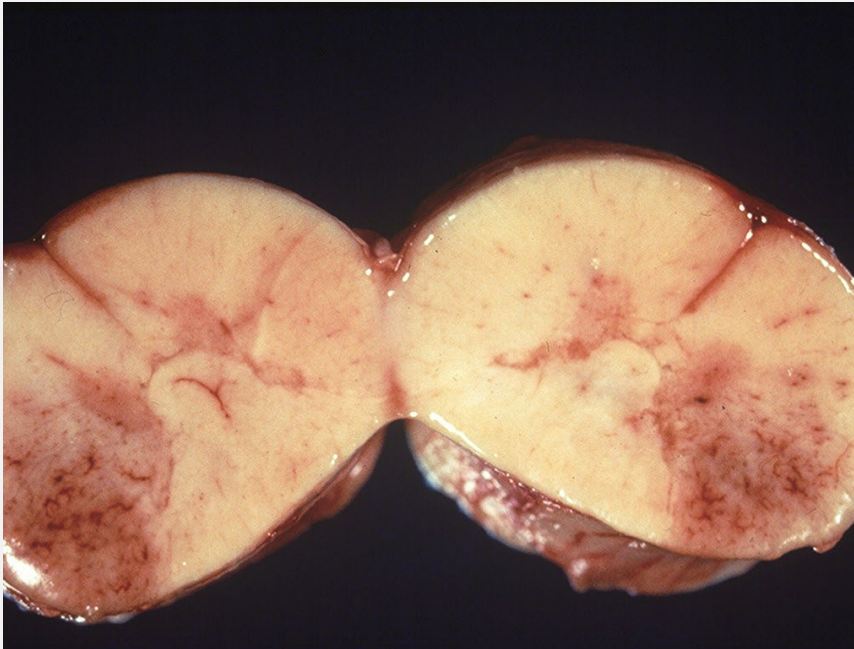
- But how to diagnose...?

| | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | SarcoFluor™ Interpretation (<i>Sarcocystis neurona</i> IFAT) | |
| Serum titer result | Estimated probability of EPM due to <i>S. neurona</i> given the test result ** | |
| 40 | 33% | |
| 80 | 55% | |
| 160 | 76% | |
| 320 | 89% | |
| ≥640 | 95% | |
| CSF titer result | Estimated probability of EPM due to <i>S. neurona</i> given the test results | |
| <5 | <1% | |
| ≥5 | 92% | |



EPM

- Definitive diagnosis is postmortem only



Giles, University of Kentucky



Cho, Louisiana State University

Can you imagine why this might be asymmetric...?

ANY QUESTIONS?

