

## **Who can treat my horse if it has Equine Piroplasmiasis (EP)?**

Treatment must be performed by a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) accredited veterinarian and must be performed under the observation of a state or federal animal health official.

## **What drug is used for treatment?**

The drug used for treatment of infection with *Theleiria equi* is an antiprotozoal called imidocarb dipropionate.

## **Are there any adverse effects of treatment with imidocarb?**

Horses receiving this treatment may show signs of agitation, colic and diarrhea. Horses undergoing treatment should be carefully monitored for any complications.

## **Who pays for the cost of treatment?**

Treatment is at the owner's expense.

## **How much does it cost to treat?**

The total cost of veterinary charges to the owner is up to the individual veterinarian in charge of treatment.

## **What is the likelihood that my horse will respond to the treatment?**

To date, only ten (10) out of one hundred and ninety seven (197) or 5% of horses treated nationwide for this disease have failed to respond after the first treatment. Of those, nine (9) cleared the infection after the second treatment. One did not clear the infection after the second treatment.

Therefore, it is important to realize that your horse may only clear the infection after a second treatment. It is also important to realize that there is a small possibility that they may not be able to clear the infection at all. Treatment is not a guarantee of clearance of infection.

## **Have EP positive horses in California been treated?**

In California, six (6) horses have been treated by this protocol thus far, and four have successfully cleared the infection. One of the six horses has been treated twice and has not cleared the infection. Infection with a strain of parasite resistant to treatment could be a possible cause for failure to clear the organism with treatment.

## **I'd like to treat – now what?**

If you decide to treat for this disease, notify the state or federal animal health official in charge of your case. Your horse will then be enrolled into the United States Department of Agriculture Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (USDAAPHIS) treatment program. Although you are responsible for paying the veterinary costs associated with treatment, all testing subsequent to treatment is paid for by this program if performed by a state or federal animal health official.

## **How long will my horse remain under quarantine should I choose to treat?**

EP positive horses remain under quarantine from time of confirmation until all criteria for release have been met which includes negative test results on all available diagnostic tests.

It is important to realize that in some cases, it may take up to two years for your horse to completely clear the infection.

## **How is my horse determined to be free of infection after treatment?**

In order to be considered free of infection, a horse that has undergone the treatment protocol needs to demonstrate the following:

- Three (3) negative PCR tests 30 days apart (30, 60 and 90 days after treatment)
- Proof of negative ELISA and CF tests after treatment

## **Who can I contact to obtain more information regarding treatment for EP?**

For more information, contact your state equine staff veterinarian, Dr. Katie Flynn, at (916) 900 5002.

### **Animal Health and Food Safety Services Animal Health Branch**

Headquarters	(916) 900-5002
Redding District	(530) 225-2140
Modesto District	(209) 491-9350
Tulare District	(559) 685-3500
Ontario District	(909) 947-4462

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