

VESICULAR STOMATITIS IN HORSES 101

DISEASE TRANSMISSION : insect vectors (like flies), physical contact between animals, or contact with items used by an infected horse.

Don't confuse with foot and mouth disease (FMD), which does NOT affect horses.

When vesicular stomatitis occurs in horses, **blister-like lesions** usually develop on the tongue, mouth lining, nose or lips. In some cases, lesions can develop on the coronary bands, or on the udder or sheath.

PREVENTION:

- Isolate new horses and any horse that shows signs of infection.
- Handle healthy animals first and *sick animals last*.
- Implement an effective insect control program. Keep stabling areas clean, dry and free of potential breeding grounds.
- Use individual rather than communal feeders, waterers, and equipment. *Clean and disinfect equipment regularly.*
- **Humans can contract vesicular stomatitis from infected horses.** Anyone handling infected horses should follow proper biosafety measures to protect themselves and prevent exposing other animals.



Work with your veterinarian to establish isolation and response procedures