

## **An Important Message Regarding the TMC June 25 & 26 Summer Solstice Show and Clinic**

You may have heard that as of June 2, 2023, vesicular stomatitis has been reported in San Diego, Riverside, and San Bernardino counties. The following Biosecurity Requirements have been instituted for horse shows:

- Pre-show Vet Certificate of Health, obtained **7** days prior to the show, must be presented upon arrival at BVS Equestrian Center
- A Veterinarian exam may be performed upon arrival at BVS Equestrian Center. At present it is not a requirement for horses stabled and trained in Kern County. It will be decided closer to the show and discussed with entrants of the show if it will be necessary.
- Mandatory temperature monitoring the morning of the show
- Utilize fly wipes and sprays on horses and equipment such as trailers.
- Removal of manure and standing water to reduce breeding grounds of insects.
- Avoid use of communal water sources. Utilizing only individual water and feed buckets.
- An isolation area will be established at the Equestrian Center.
- Keep maximum possible distance between all horses.
- Riders, trainers, support staff, and all other attendees will be required to interact with only those horses they are showing/riding.
- No horses may “linger” outside the competition area: ride to the arena from the warm-up, enter the arena promptly, and return to your trailer or barn as soon as you have finished your ride.

We hope that meeting the above criteria will permit us to hold a successful show. ***However, please bear in mind that, due to the spread of VSV, we may be forced to cancel the show. In that event, you will be notified as soon as possible, and your fees will be refunded.***

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The following information regarding vesicular stomatitis is from the California Department of Food and Agriculture.

- Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) is a viral disease agent that affects primarily horses and cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas and alpacas.
- Humans that handle affected animals may become infected. Outbreaks usually occur during the warm summer months.
- Livestock infected with VSV usually show clinical signs 2-8 days after exposure to the virus.
  - The first sign is usually excessive salivation due to vesicles, blister-like lesions, in the mouth. Vesicles may also be found on the nostrils, teats, and around the hooves.
  - Vesicles swell and break, exposing raw tissue, causing pain and discomfort.
  - Animals may refuse to eat or drink and may show signs of lameness.
  - Affected animals usually recover within two weeks.
- The exact mechanism of spread is currently unknown, but biting insects and animal-to-animal contact may play a role in the spread of the disease. An infected animal's saliva and fluid from ruptured vesicles can contaminate feed, water, housing and other objects, further spreading the disease.
- There is no specific treatment or cure for animals infected with VSV and there are no vaccines available to prevent this disease.
- Veterinarians and livestock owners who suspect an animal may have VSV or any other vesicular disease should immediately contact a State or Federal animal health authority.

Per Matt Eliot, DVM ([drmattdvm@earthlink.net](mailto:drmattdvm@earthlink.net)) : Direct contact from affected to non-affected horses will contribute to the contagion. Horse owners who come in contact with lesions from an affected horse and then handle a non-affected horse will also contribute to the spread of the virus.

Physical contact between animals, or contact with buckets, equipment, housing, trailers, feed, bedding, shared water troughs or other items used by an infected horse can provide a read means of spread.

VSV is a "reportable disease,": if a vet suspects a case, the state and federal animal health authorities must be notified. When a case of VS is confirmed, the state veterinarian's office will quarantine the affected farm or ranch. *The last affected horse must be free of lesions for 2 weeks before the quarantine is lifted.*

BVSDC & TMC VSV NOTICE

As of June 26th, the BVS equestrian Center has opened the grounds to horses from other counties who have had a vet examination and certificate upon entrance to the EC.

For more information, please see

<https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/equine/vsv/vesicular-stomatitis>

[https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal\\_Health/VS.html](https://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/Animal_Health/VS.html)