

June 21, 2016 TVDCTA Meeting Minutes

06:58pm Meeting called to order by Helen Bergquist (President)

Attendees: Kathy Coviello, Chris Cochrane, Judith Fiorentino, Jean Stuart, MaryElizabeth Knapp, Ann Manchion (guest), Helen Bergquist, Elizabeth Mabry, Natalie Weil, Laura Pritchett, Biel Trudell, Maggie Trudell, Victoria Tripiano, Gretchen Sienicki, Cathy Zappe, Maike Frye, Lisa Foley, Ciera Foley, Marsha Laitinen

Program: Potomac Horse Fever  
Dr. Jarrod Harney, D.V.M  
North Alabama Equine Hospital

Dr. Harney is a graduate of Mississippi State University & School of Veterinary Medicine (2012). He worked @ a mixed animal clinic in Arab, AL for ~ 4 1/2 years before joining North Alabama Equine Hospital about 5 months ago. His presentation will be "Potomac Horse Fever"

PHF also known as "Equine monocytic ehrlichiosis" is an acute syndrome caused by the bacteria *Neorickettsia risticii*. PHF originally described in 1979 as a sporadic disease affecting horses in the eastern US near the Potomac River has since been reported in other geographic locations in the US & Canada.

The disease is seen predominately in spring, summer, and early fall & is often associated with pastures bordering creeks or rivers. *N risticii* has been identified in flukes that develop in freshwater snails. When the water warms during the summer, infected flukes are released into the aquatic environment. These in turn can be swallowed by horses drinking from rivers or streams, (actual ingestion of the infected snail is less likely), but more commonly picked up by aquatic insects, such as caddisflies, mayflies, damselflies, and dragonflies, where they develop into their next life stage. Infected aquatic insects can hatch in mass & could potentially carry the organism to horses to ingest as they graze.

Clinical Findings: The clinical features of PHF are often vague with an initial incubation period of 10-18 days following exposure. Signs & symptoms may include mild depression, anorexia (loss of appetite), & depressed bowel sounds often mimicking colic. A fever of 102-107° usually develops within 12-24 hrs after onset of initial symptoms. Within 24-48 hrs, a moderate to severe watery diarrhea develops. Clinical signs can often be mistaken for those of *Salmonella*. Laminitis can occur as a severe complication of PHF (up to 30% in literature), but realistically higher in practice.

Treatment: The drug of choice for PHF is Oxytetracycline (6.6mg/kg) admin IV twice a day for 5 days. Usually with 3 days of admin. symptoms improve.  
Supportive care also includes admin. of IV fluids & electrolytes to correct dehydration, non steroidal antiinflammatory agents to alleviate pain & hoof support, such as icing the feet if laminitis is suspected.

Diagnosis: A diagnosis is often based on the presence of typical clinical signs & on the seasonal & geographical occurrence of the disease. A definitive diagnosis can be confirmed by lab identification of the organism in blood or manure samples by PCR assay.

Prevention: A commercially manufactured vaccine is available however its efficacy is questionable in prevention of PHF (~78% according to literature), but rather simply helps improve a horse's immune response. Due to the seasonal incidence of the disease, vaccination should be timed to precede peak periods (summer & fall). An initial admin (ie March) is followed by a 2nd vaccine in 3-4 wks. In addition to vaccination, limit exposure to PHF vectors by: restricting grazing near bodies of water. Turn off barn lights when not in use. Do not place food or water buckets directly under barn lights. Keep stored food covered. Clear water sources frequently. Separate sick or symptomatic horses from others, Wash hands after working with each horse. Don't share grooming equipment until a definitive diagnosis is made.

07:31pm General business meeting

Since there was no objection, the reading of the minutes was waived & the minutes approved as submitted/distributed.

Report of Officers:

1. Treasurer Report (Paulette Lyons): Absent/nothing submitted to report/report to be completed & submitted within next few days.

Reports of Standing Committees:

1. Awards (Denise Ferrara-Payne): Absent/nothing submitted to report

2. Bylaws/Grievances (Gretchen Sienicki): Nothing to report

3. Budget/Fiscal (Paulette Lyons): Absent/nothing submitted to report

4. Librarian (Maiké Frye): Nothing to report/no new additions

5. Newsletter/Website (Monica Yother): Absent/nothing submitted to report

6. Meetings/Programs (Helen Bergquist) Next meeting will be Tuesday July 19 @ MyDesign Studio @ the Lowe Mill. The program will be "Soloshot Video Recording" by Brooks Garrison

7. Membership (Chris Cochrane): Addition of one new member since last meeting.

8. Publicity (Victoria Tripiano): An official bio brief is now available for board members to submit to Victoria along with a pic of you & your horse for publication in the newsletter. The plan is to expand this to TVDCTA members in the future. Continue to share pictures & likes as this creates interest & shows up in facebook feeds. Another WLRH/NPR public service announcement is planned for a later date.

9. Show Secretary (Natalie Weil): Presently there are 16 riders and 4 Ride A Tests scheduled for Saturday's show. We will start @ 8 am, highest level to lowest level test & should end ~noon with 15 minute break in between. The judge will be Andrea Pappano (Gold Medal). Watch for the schedule to be posted on the website & facebook.

10. Volunteer Coordinator (Biel Trudell): All positions for Saturday show have been covered in two hour blocks.

#### Reports of Special Committees:

1. Volunteer Incentive (Kathy Coviello): Met as proposed. Awards for volunteerism for both CT & dressage shows.

Three levels of participation: Bronze, Silver, & Gold. Prizes selected are as follows: water bottle, tote bag & grooming apron (all with TVDCTA logos) & furnished by Cafe Press.

2. Olympic Incentive Program (Victoria Tripiano):

Volunteers are needed & participation on this committee counts towards volunteer hours. If interested contact Victoria Tripiano. A meeting is scheduled for next week. This program will be part of the 30 July CT/Dressage show @ FRF. The goal is to familiarize the public with the history of equestrian sports in the Olympics (thru use of a PA system & announcer). A demo rider for an upper level dressage test is still being sought.

Special Orders: None

Unfinished Business: There was no unfinished business to discuss

New Business: There was no new business

#### Announcements:

Lisa Foley commented that she could find no direct contact numbers/emails listed on the web site. Also, she submitted the online form (which is forwarded to the TVDCTA gmail account) but received no reply. Helen Bergquist said she would investigate.

{Post meeting notes: A list of direct contact names, addresses, and phone numbers is on the web site (posted June 1, 2016) under the ABOUT - BOARD tab. The contact form was demonstrate to work. We found that occasional emails are not forwarded by the server. The webmistress monitors the back end of the website to catch show entries, show volunteers, or new members that may otherwise be missed. We found some unanswered emails in the TVDCTA inbox. We are developing a protocol to better respond to emails. The President, Helen Bergquist, will monitor the inbox and respond to submissions to Contact TVDCTA.}

Motion was entertained by Helen Bergquist to adjourn. Natalie Weil 1st motion, followed by Judith Fiorentino 2nd motion.