

## Equine neurological disease associated with EHV-1

Please, send **nasal swabs** from horses showing neurological symptoms with or without respiratory symptoms

### Nasal swabbing tips

1. The horse needs to be restrained for appropriate sampling.
2. Use commercial available nasopharyngeal swabs with polyester (dacron or rayon) tips and plastic shafts. A standard uterine swab can also be used. Use 2-3 swabs held together for more efficient sampling.
3. Insert the swabs as far as possible into the nostril. Avoid the blind pouch located inside the nostril. Swabs should be rubbed against the mucosa and held for one minute to absorb respiratory secretions.
4. Transfer the swabs into a tube containing sufficient viral transport medium to cover the swab tip (2 ml is fine in most cases). Cut the end of the swabs and close the tube.
5. When taking multiple samples, care must be taken to avoid cross-contamination.

Suitable virus transport medium\*:

- PBS + 10% glycerol + antibiotics, or
  - Sterile normal saline isotonic solution (0.9% Na)
6. Send to the laboratory (refrigerated with cold packs preferred, do not freeze) for testing.
  7. Please, **include the Submission Form** and let us know you are sending a sample.
  8. Upon receipt, the swabs will be tested using **PCR** (result available in one day) and **virus isolation** (result available in four -five days)

### Blood sampling

Please, include in the same package:

**Citrate or EDTA blood:** For detection of EHV-1 from white blood cells.

**Clotted blood or serum:** For antibody detection (result available in 3-5 days). The test requires two samples collected at a 2-3 week interval (please, send another sample). Serological testing is unlikely to provide a diagnosis during an ongoing disease outbreak.

**Cerebrospinal fluid (when possible):** For detection of EHV-1.

### Isolate sick horses

Prevent a sick horse from having contact with other horses. Take measures to ensure that the disease is not transmitted to other horses through contaminated hands, clothing or equipment.

\*We provide free of charge: nasal swabs and 15-ml tubes containing suitable virus transport medium.