

NYS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & MARKETS
DIVISION OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY - ALBANY, NEW YORK
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FAST FACTS ABOUT
SALMONELLOSIS

DEFINITION

SALMONELLOSIS IS A DISORDER OF THE GASTROINTESTINAL TRACT. HORSES OF ALL AGES ARE AFFECTED, BUT IS MORE COMMON IN YOUNGER ANIMALS. STRESS SUCH AS TRAINING, TRANSPORTATION, SURGERY, ANTIBIOTIC THERAPY, OR DIETARY CHANGES CAN LEAD TO IT'S DEVELOPMENT.

CAUSE

THE SYMPTOMS OF THIS DISEASE ARE CAUSED BY TOXINS PRODUCED BY SALMONELLA SPECIES BACTERIA. 10-20% OF THE EQUINE POPULATION ARE INFECTED AND SHED SALMONELLA; TRANSMISSION TO OTHER HORSES IS BY THE ORAL ROUTE OR ENTRY THROUGH THE UMBILICAL STUMP IN FOALS LESS THAN 30 DAYS OF AGE OR AN OPEN WOUND. MANY TYPES OF SALMONELLA CAN BE TRANSMITTED TO PEOPLE.

CLINICAL SIGNS

ANIMALS EXHIBIT ONE OF FOUR DISTINCT SIGNS:

- (1) ACTIVE CARRIER THAT APPEARS NORMAL
- (2) DEPRESSION, FEVER, LOSS OF APPETITE
- (3) SEVERE CASE OF COLITIS WITH DIARRHEA
- (4) SEPTICEMIA-BONE AND JOINT INFECTIONS

DIAGNOSIS

Fecal samples taken on a daily basis for 3-5 days or cultures of joint fluid.

TREATMENT

Fluid & electrolyte therapy, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs, antibiotics, anti-diarrheal medications, and anti-serum in horses with colitis.

PROGNOSIS

GUARDED; HOWEVER, IF PROPER TREATMENT IS RECEIVED, 90% WILL SURVIVE. SOME OF THESE ANIMALS WILL REMAIN CARRIERS AND INFECT OTHER HORSES. LAMINITIS MAY OCCUR.

PREVENTION

ISOLATION OF ANY SICK HORSE (ESPECIALLY THOSE WITH DIARRHEA). WASHING OF HANDS AFTER HANDLING SICK ANIMAL. IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO WOUNDS. TREATING NAVELS OF NEWBORNS. FREQUENT AND THOROUGH REMOVAL OF MANURE IN BARN.

VACCINATION

CURRENTLY NO VACCINE TO PREVENT SALMONELLOSIS.

-Dr. Lyda W. Denney-