



Animal Health Trust



FLU ALERT!

Please be on the lookout for the classic influenza signs including a harsh dry cough, nasal discharge, pyrexia and in-appetite - particularly in the affected areas, or in horses that have recently been transported. Signs may be mild in vaccinated horses.

Vets - please remember we can test your samples for free through the surveillance scheme. Click [here](#) to sign up. You can send in samples to us for free diagnosis by using your equine flu swabbing kits and by taking paired blood samples. If you need any more information or more kits and submission forms please contact us.

RECENT OUTBREAKS:

May – East Yorkshire outbreak

On 9 May 2017, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on premises in East Yorkshire. The affected animal was an unvaccinated three-year-old Shetland colt that presented with clinical signs of barking cough, mild nasal discharge, pyrexia and a dull demeanor. The positive diagnosis was confirmed by qPCR on a nasopharyngeal swab submitted under the HBLB Influenza Surveillance Scheme. This animal was in direct contact with four mares displaying a low-grade cough, and two foals with signs similar to the case. Two donkeys in a separate field were also coughing. None of these animals were vaccinated.

May – Lancashire outbreak

On 2 May 2017, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on premises in Lancashire. The affected animal was a ten-year-old Stallion with presenting clinical signs of coughing, nasal discharge and lethargy. This animal was last vaccinated against Influenza in 2014. Due to pre-movement sampling, the horse was already in isolation and has since recovered. The positive diagnosis was confirmed on 2 May 2017 under the HBLB Influenza Surveillance Scheme, using the haemagglutination inhibition (HI) test which indicated seroconversion on paired serology.

March – Gloucestershire outbreak

On 28 March 2017, the Animal Health Trust confirmed a case of equine influenza on premises in Gloucestershire. The affected animal was an

unvaccinated five-year-old Warmblood gelding that presented with pyrexia and mucopurulent nasal discharge on 16 March 2017. With this clinical presentation, the horse was immediately placed into isolation and has since recovered. The positive diagnosis was confirmed on 28 March 2017 under the HBLB Influenza Surveillance Scheme, using the haemagglutination inhibition (HI) test which indicated seroconversion on paired serology.

Date diagnosed	Location	Vaccinated?	No. of horses affected	Clade of virus
9 May	East Yorkshire	No		In progress
2 May	Lancashire	Out of date	1	-
28 March	Gloucestershire	No	1	-