



Animal Health Trust

Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7UU
Registered charity no: 209642



Equine Influenza Sentinel Practice Surveillance Scheme

Issue 10

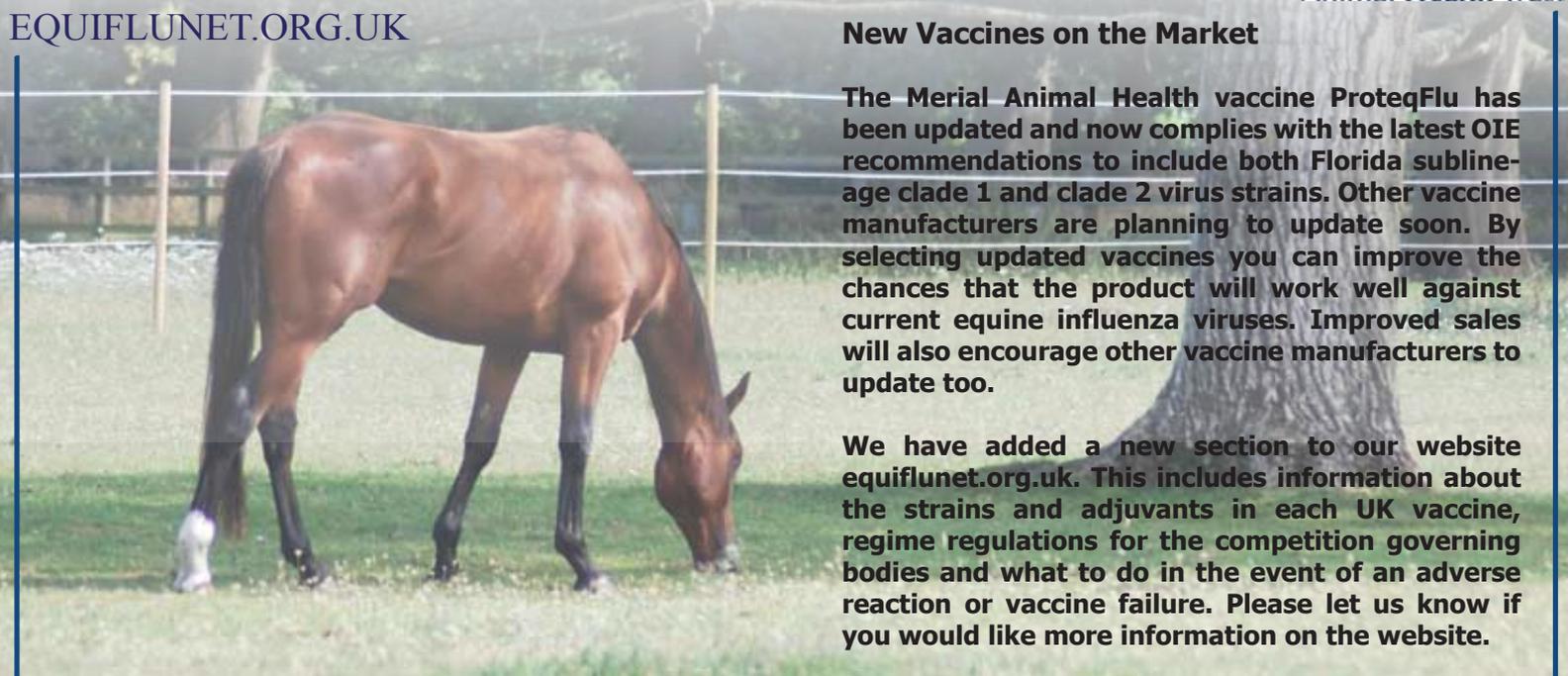
Animal Health Trust

EQUIFLUNET.ORG.UK

New Vaccines on the Market

The Merial Animal Health vaccine ProteqFlu has been updated and now complies with the latest OIE recommendations to include both Florida sublineage clade 1 and clade 2 virus strains. Other vaccine manufacturers are planning to update soon. By selecting updated vaccines you can improve the chances that the product will work well against current equine influenza viruses. Improved sales will also encourage other vaccine manufacturers to update too.

We have added a new section to our website equiflunet.org.uk. This includes information about the strains and adjuvants in each UK vaccine, regime regulations for the competition governing bodies and what to do in the event of an adverse reaction or vaccine failure. Please let us know if you would like more information on the website.



2014 UK outbreaks

In March, the first cases of the year were diagnosed in Bedfordshire and in North Yorkshire, where the affected horse had recently arrived from Ireland. No further cases were diagnosed until August, when unvaccinated horses tested positive for flu in Bedfordshire and East Lothian. Three weeks later, the first of a number of cases were diagnosed in September. These cases were diagnosed in Cornwall, East Lothian, Essex, Perthshire, Somerset, Staffordshire and Sussex.

A further 11 outbreaks were confirmed in October, affecting Ayrshire, Cumbria, Kent, Perthshire, the Scottish Borders, South Ayrshire, Warwickshire, the West Midlands and Worcestershire.

None of the affected horses in the September and October outbreaks were reported to have been up to date with their vaccinations, whilst most were unvaccinated.

Five more cases were diagnosed in November, affecting horses in Buckinghamshire, Cambridgeshire, Kent,



Leicestershire and Yorkshire. The affected horse in Buckinghamshire had a full vaccination record and had received its last booster vaccination in March 2014. There were no reports of any other vaccinated horses being affected in 2014.

Based on the information that we received, at least 9 of the 29 confirmed outbreaks in 2014 had some link to horses arriving from Ireland, however no direct epidemiological link to Ireland itself was made. A further four outbreaks involved horses that had recently arrived at the premises, some of which had travelled via dealers' yards.

... "horse in Buckinghamshire had a full vaccination record and had received its last booster vaccination in March"

CHECK WHAT STRAINS ARE IN THE VACCINES YOU USE.

Updated vaccines are available from Merial and MSD. Visit equiflunet.org.uk vaccine pages for more information.



THE HORSERACE BETTING LEVY BOARD
Funds the Animal Health Trust's Equine Influenza Programme



Canine influenza – H3N8 and H3N2 (April 2015)

Canine influenza virus (CIV) has circulated in the USA dog population since 2004, when it is thought the virus jumped from horses into greyhounds. This H3N8 virus is now endemic amongst the USA dog population, and has adapted to its new canine host. In the UK two outbreaks of H3N8 equine influenza (EIV) in foxhounds were diagnosed by the AHT. These were between 2002-2003 when large numbers of horses were infected with EIV across the UK. There have been no further reports of EIV in dogs in the UK.

In the last few weeks more than 1300 dogs in the USA have been affected by canine influenza, imported from Asia. This virus belongs to the H3N2 subtype and originated in birds. It has caused multiple outbreaks in dogs in China and South Korea since 2006 and has fully adapted to its canine host. H3N2 CIV is unrelated to the canine H3N8 viruses, also circulating in the USA, which originated in horses. There have been anecdotal reports that dogs rescued from meat markets in China and South Korea were brought back to the USA by animal rescue groups. This may be the source of the latest outbreaks in the USA.

Both viruses (H3N8 and H3N2) cause clinical signs of fever, coughing, nasal discharge, inappetance and lethargy, but the signs may be more severe in dogs infected with the H3N2 virus. To date the canine H3N2 virus has not been detected in the UK, but we ask vets to look out for suspected cases of influenza in dogs. Our diagnostic qPCR test for equine influenza virus will also detect both types of canine influenza virus.

For more information about canine diagnostic tests available and for submitting samples, please see the AHT's Diagnostic Laboratory Services "Information & Price Guide 2015", available at ahtdiagnostics.co.uk.



International Outbreaks

The Irish Equine Centre has confirmed there were multiple outbreaks of influenza in Irish Thoroughbred racing horses, including horses that had been fully vaccinated. In the USA outbreaks were reported in fully vaccinated groups of horses in Tennessee.

This suggests that some of the vaccines in use are no longer fully effective and the possibility of large scale outbreaks increases. Please check the vaccines you use to see whether they comply to the latest OIE recommendations. Current recommendations state that vaccines should include representatives from both clade 1 and 2 of the Florida sublineage. Clade 1 viruses include South Africa/4/03 or Ohio/03 and a clade 2 is represented by Richmond/07.

Thank you for sending in your samples for diagnostics this year. These are invaluable, they allow us to characterise the viruses that are circulating in the field. We can then establish whether the recommended vaccine strains will still provide optimal protection or not. We present all the virus data at the annual Expert Surveillance Panel meeting, which provides recommendations to the OIE on the strains that need to be included in vaccines. We could not do this work without your swab and blood samples.

Yellow Forms

If a vaccine causes an adverse reaction of any type, including failure to protect from clinical signs of disease, a yellow form should be filled in.

Both vets and owners can do this, or with their permission, we can do it for them. This is one of the major ways the manufacturers monitor both the safety and efficacy of their products.

Visit equiflunet.org.uk vaccine pages more details and links to the forms.