thoroughbred mare aborted at 230 days gestation with diagnosis in both cases by immunostaining of the chorion. There were no contacts affected in these three cases.

**EHV-1 Neurological Disease**
A presumptive diagnosis of EHV-1 neurological disease was made in an unvaccinated cross bred horse that was found to have high antibody titres to EHV-1 whilst displaying ataxia and bladder paresis. In contact animals remained seronegative.

**EHV-3 Coital Exanthema**
In December a cob stallion from Wales was EHV-3 positive, with one covered mare affected. Diagnosis was confirmed by serology.

**Equine Influenza**
In November a circus pony was diagnosed positive for influenza virus by nucleoprotein ELISA on a nasopharyngeal swab, confirmed by virus isolation in eggs. The confirmed case and 6 affected in contact animals, all Friesian geldings, had been recently imported from Holland.

**FOCUS ARTICLE: EQUINE INFECTIOUS ANAEMIA - UPDATE ON THE IRISH OUTBREAK AND CURRENT INDUSTRY RECOMMENDATIONS AND LEGISLATION**
Annie Cooke MRCVS, Epidemiology Unit, Animal Health Trust

**Review of the Irish outbreak**
Hopes are gradually rising that the current Irish outbreak, centred around the Meath/Kildare area, which started in June 2006, is being successfully controlled and will soon be coming to an end. In January alone The Irish Equine Centre tested in excess of 14,000 blood samples for EIA. In total more than 42,000 samples have been tested since the first cases were confirmed and this figure is expected to rise to 50,000 by March 2007, with continuing surveillance.

The situation as at 14\textsuperscript{th} February 2007 was that a total of 28 cases have been identified with the last one confirmed 66 days previously on 10\textsuperscript{th} December 2006. The last three confirmed cases have had the longest interval between them (27, 20 & 25 days respectively), which is taken as an encouraging development. There were no primary or secondary in contact animals traced to mainland Britain, associated with the last case.

In Ireland a total of 53 premises have been placed under restriction with only 8 premises now having restrictions remaining in place. In Britain 22 horses were placed under restriction due to their in contact status on 9 different premises. All restrictions have now been lifted as all 22 horses have had negative Coggins tests at least 90 days after the last possible exposure. In Britain no positive cases have been detected since the outbreak was initially notified in Ireland, however one case was found in Northern Ireland on 1\textsuperscript{st} September 2006. This was the first case of EIA in the UK for more than 30 years and the animal was euthanased. Further details on EIA in Europe can be found on the Defra website (Click here).

**Equine industry initiated controls for EIA**
The Horseracing Regulatory Authority (HRA) requires runners from Ireland to have a negative Coggins result no more than 14 days prior to racing. UK trained horses that have been to Ireland should have a Coggins test 90-120 days after their return, failure to produce a negative certificate results in suspension from racing. Form EIA1 is used to
declare negative Coggins results and form EIA2 is used to declare movements of equidae to and from Ireland. Both forms are available on the HRA website (Click here). The current advice is to travel directly to the racecourse and to return home as quickly as possible.

The Irish Thoroughbred Breeders Association (ITBA) has developed EIA Guidelines for the 2007 breeding season. Mares require two negative EIA certificates from approved laboratories, the first in January and the second within 28 days prior to movement on to studs or foaling units. So far 50 Irish studs have signed up to the scheme. Further details are available via the ITBA website (Click here).

The Newmarket Stud Farmers Association (NSFA) has new breeding regulations for 2007 that were revised on 1st February. These are summarized below:
1) Mares from mainland Britain require one negative Coggins test after 1st January before covering. This can be done from the blood sample taken for prebreeding EVA testing.
2) Mares from Ireland (including Northern Ireland) require a negative Coggins test no more than 14 days prior to arrival in the UK. A second sample is required in the UK not more than 21 days prior to and as close as possible to first covering.
3) All other mares require a negative Coggins test no more than 14 days prior to arrival in the UK. A second negative sample is required at the boarding stud prior to covering, a minimum of 14 days after arrival. Further tests are needed within 21 days of covering and as close as possible to each covering, until a period of 60 days from import has elapsed.
4) Mares from Italy need sampling as for 3) above but also any foals at foot require a negative Coggins a minimum of 14 days after arrival.

Once these and other disease criteria are met a freedom from infection certificate may be signed. For further information visit the NSFA website (Click here).

DEFRA in response to developments in Ireland and in collaboration with the British equine industry also produced a Code of Practice for EIA in August 2006. A brief summary of its contents is provided here but it is available in full from the Defra website (Click here).

Background information on EIA the disease and its consequences.
1) Advice to those in the industry on precautions to minimize the risk of possible infection.
2) Notification procedures.
3) Trade implications. Control measures and recommendations for prevention.
4) Advice on transport of horses to and from affected countries, definitions of primary and secondary contact status and how to deal with such animals.

Recent developments in English and European legislation for EIA
The Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) Order 2006 came into force in England on 29th August 2006. It amended the Specified Diseases (Notification and Slaughter) Order 1992 by adding EIA to the list of diseases to which section 32 of the Animal Health Act 1981 applies (under which the Secretary of State may cause animals to be slaughtered). It also amended the Specified Diseases (Notification) Order 1996 by
adding EIA to the list of specified diseases in relation to which the notification provisions in article 3 of that Order apply. (Click here to view this legislation).

The Equine Infectious Anaemia (Compensation) (England) Order 2006 came into force on the 6th November 2006, which stipulated compensation to the value of £1 per animal for those horses compulsorily slaughtered for EIA (Click here to view this legislation). On 5th March 2007 legislation, on the EU commission decision on protective measures with regard to EIA in Romania, was released. (Click here to view this legislation).

**Bacteriology Disease Report for the fourth quarter 2006**

A summary of the diagnostic bacteriology testing undertaken by different contributing laboratories is presented in Table 2. For contagious equine metritis organism (CEMO) 9 of 29 HBLB approved laboratories contributed data.

VLA CEMO data for the period October, November and December 2006.
We are again pleased to include data relating to CEMO testing from the Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA), in this quarterly report. The sample population for the VLA is different from that for the other contributing laboratories as the VLA tests are principally in relation to international trade.

Submissions for international trade pre-export tests continue the upward trend with swab numbers up 5.3% when compared with the same quarter in 2005. Of the 1223 animals tested one stallion had two positive swabs by culture. The horse was treated and it and animals in contact with it subsequently swabbed three further times, with negative results prior to being exported.

**Table 2: Diagnostic bacteriology sample throughput and positive results for fourth quarter 2006**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Samples Tested</th>
<th>Number Positive</th>
<th>Number of Contributing Laboratories</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEMO (HBLB)</td>
<td>1207</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEMO (VLA)</td>
<td>2889</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strangles*</td>
<td>592</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salmonellosis</td>
<td>403</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MRSA</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clostridium perfringens</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clostridium difficile (toxin by ELISA)</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cryptosporidium</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawsonia intracellularis (PCR)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CEMO = contagious equine metritis organism (*Taylorella equigenitalis*); HBLB = HBLB accredited laboratories; VLA = VLA reference laboratory; *Streptococcus equi; MRSA = methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*.

Of the 403 samples tested for *Salmonella* spp., 142 were sent directly to the VLA for testing and of these 15 (10.6%) were found to be positive. The other 6 positive samples were among 261 samples tested by other laboratories. There were two *S. agama*, one *S. Newport* and three *S. Typhimurium*. The 15 strains typed at the VLA, included one *S. agama*, one *S. Enteritidis* 8, two *S. Newport* and one each of *S. Typhimurium* 135, 193, 40, 41,5 6 (including two variants) and two U288.