



## Help Prevent Equine Disease This Summer

As summer approaches, the Kansas Department of Agriculture Division of Animal Health (KDA-DAH) encourages horse owners to take proactive steps to prevent the transmission of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV), an equine disease that is common in the summer months. VSV is transmitted by insect vectors, and recent years have seen an increase in cases of VSV in Kansas.

If you own horses or take care of horses, this is the time of year to be vigilant in changes to your animal care routine to prevent introduction of VSV. Consider these best practices in your horse care this summer:

**Strict fly control.** VSV is primarily spread by black flies and midges. Keep pens clean, remove manure, and use appropriate fly sprays and traps. Minimize bright lights that attract insects at night.

**Regularly inspect horses for symptoms** that might indicate VSV, such as blister-like lesions, fever, excessive salivation, reluctance to eat, or lameness.

**If you travel to events with horses from other properties,** keep your horses separated. Don't tie up your horse with other horses, and don't share equipment, tools, tack or water buckets.

Kansas experienced a significant outbreak of VSV in 2020, with positive cases on over 100 premises in 26 counties. Other species including cattle can be susceptible to VSV, although it is primarily an equine disease. VSV is a reportable disease by state law; if there is a concern of a possible VSV infection or another reportable disease, call the Kansas Animal Health Commissioner at the KDA Division of Animal Health.

Putting these best practices into action now can protect horses across the state and assist the Kansas livestock industry in disease prevention to help avoid an outbreak this summer. Go to [www.agriculture.ks.gov/VSV](http://www.agriculture.ks.gov/VSV) for more information about VSV symptoms and prevention.



### Division of Animal Health

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Hours: Mon-Fri 8:00-5:00

[agriculture.ks.gov/animalhealth](http://agriculture.ks.gov/animalhealth)

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#### KDA-DAH State Veterinarians obtained vet boxes through grant funding.



## Permitting Domesticated Cervids

While owning and maintaining domesticated deer, sometimes referred to as farmed cervids, is allowed in Kansas, there are certain steps that need to be taken prior to getting started.

First, it is always worth calling the KDA-DAH which regulates the domesticated deer programs. At your request they can email you information that will help decide if raising domesticated deer is something you want to do. Part of this information will include the application for a Domesticated Deer Permit (DPP). You must have obtained this permit prior to putting any species of deer or elk behind fences.

It is important to read the statutes (K.S.A. 47-2101 through 47-2103) and regulations (K.A.R. 9-3-6 through K.A.R. 9-3-17) carefully. These detail not only the requirements for obtaining the DPP, but also such things as fencing and animal identification requirements. They also detail potential fines should you not obtain a permit or violate rules once permitted.

After you have read the information and have decided to become a domesticated deer owner, you will need to construct a fence which meets requirements detailed in K.A.R. 9-3-12. With larger acreages with foliage that may hide wild cervids within the fenced area, it will be necessary to keep at least one gate open so wild deer may be removed prior to final enclosure. During the fence building process, you should be sure to complete your DDP and submit the appropriate fee. After completing the fencing and submitting the application, call KDA-DAH. KDA-DAH personnel will then verify that all wild cervids have been removed from the enclosed area. At that time the area may be enclosed and the DDP will be issued.

You may bring domesticated deer into your enclosure once the following requirements are met. Deer from within Kansas must have official identification and a secondary unofficial (“farm”) tag. Both of these forms of identification must be written on a Domesticated Deer Movement Notification (DDMN) form which accompanies the deer when they move into your facility. These deer must also have tested negative for TB within 90 days prior to entering your facility, or have moved directly from a TB accredited free facility within Kansas.

If you bring in deer from out-of-state, further requirements need to be met. The official and unofficial identifications of each cervid must be individually listed on a certificate of veterinary inspection. With only a few species exceptions, the cervids must originate and move directly from a premises with a minimum of 5 years status in a Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)

program approved by the state of origin. Finally, the cervids must originate and move directly from a TB accredited free herd in the state of origin, or have had 2 negative TB tests conducted no less than 90 days apart with the second test having been completed within 90 days prior to entry into Kansas.

Additional items:

- Records for each animal must be maintained for a minimum of 5 years after the death or removal of that animal.
- All domesticated deer removed from a premises, alive or dead, shall be officially identified and individually listed on a DDMN. One copy goes with the shipment of animals, the owner keeps one copy, and 1 copy is sent to KDA-DAH.
- The CWD program in Kansas is a voluntary program, but if you plan to export live animals, you will need to participate in this program. The CWD program is in addition to the DDP.

For questions about the Cervid and CWD programs, please contact KDA-DAH at 785-564-6602.



**KDA-AFI hosted a booth during the Kansas Pet Professionals Conference in May 2021.** Pictured Left to Right: AFI team members Tyler Kauer, Chris Demel, Ben Lancaster.

## Q Fever Present in Kansas

Q fever may not be a disease that is a part of the differential list of many veterinarians with livestock abortion situations, but the disease is more common than one might think. Bulk tank sampling of U.S. cattle dairies has shown 77% to over 90% are positive for the causative agent of Q fever, the bacteria *Coxiella burnetii*. Cattle, sheep, goats, dogs, cats, humans, wild mammals, arthropods, and birds can be infected. The infection is usually inapparent in animals but can cause anorexia and abortion in sheep, goats, and cattle. In humans, the infection can cause an influenza-like disease that may result in chronic endocarditis. Q fever derives its “Q” from the word query because initially the cause of the disease was unknown.

The greatest risk of disease transmission occurs at parturition of an infected female by inhalation, ingestion, or direct contact with birth fluids or placenta. Shedding of the bacteria also occurs in milk, urine, and feces. Raw milk is a risk material, but high temperature pasteurization kills *Coxiella*. An infected female has the potential to shed bacteria with subsequent parturitions and lactations. *Coxiella* can survive for months to years in dust contaminated with dried birth fluid and can be infectious in that dust carried by the wind. Tetracycline antibiotics have been effective against closely related bacteria, but little research exists to show that tetracyclines in animals provide any significant benefit against *Coxiella*.

Q fever in people in the United States is a notifiable disease, mostly because of *Coxiella*'s potential as a bioterrorism agent. In Kansas, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment would lead any response to *Coxiella* exposed humans. Recently, KDA-DAH has assisted Q fever positive herd owners with disease education and herd management recommendations.

### References:

<https://www.cdc.gov/qfever/stats/index.html>

<https://www.merckvetmanual.com/generalized-conditions/coxiellosis/overview-of-coxiellosis>

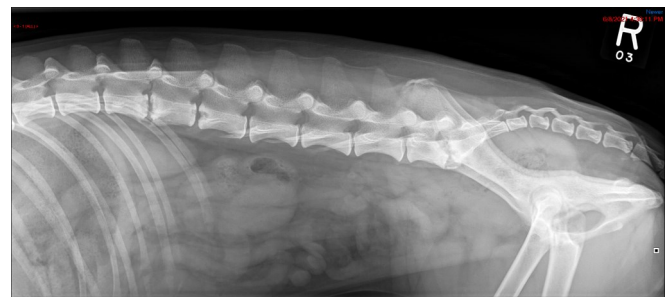
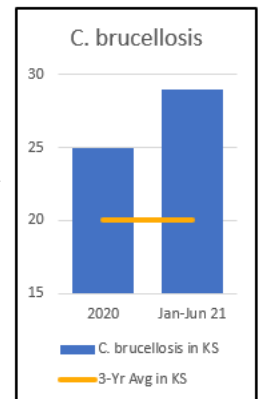
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## Canine Brucellosis Cases Increasing

Multiple cases of canine brucellosis have been confirmed recently in the Midwest states in young dogs. The dogs are presenting with stiffness, lameness or back pain due to discospondylitis. Radiographic findings include osteolysis of vertebral endplates, sclerosis of adjacent bone, and narrowing of the intervertebral disc space. As reported in the Fall 2020 KDA-DAH newsletter, reproductive issues is the most common clinical sign of canine brucellosis, however occasionally discospondylitis is reported. Testing for *C. brucellosis* is voluntary in Kansas, although it does remain a Reportable Disease. Both kennel and rescue dogs have tested positive for *C. brucellosis* in the Midwest.



*LS and Lumbar spine of Rhodesian Ridgeback 2 year and 2 months with LS and multiple sites of discospondylitis (Source: Veterinary Health Center at Kansas State, June 2021)*

## USDA's Free RFID Tags Continue

USDA continues distributing free low frequency RFID ear tags for the reproductive animals of the cow herd. Orders must be placed by an accredited veterinarian. Order soon as tags are limited. When placing the order, request a one-year supply. No stockpiling is allowed.

For additional details and to order tags, contact:

**Karaline Mayer** — [Karaline.Mayer@ks.gov](mailto:Karaline.Mayer@ks.gov), 785-313-0266

**Kelly McDonald** — [Kelly.McDonald@usda.gov](mailto:Kelly.McDonald@usda.gov), 785-228-6579

**Lindy Trapp** — [Lindy.Trapp@usda.gov](mailto:Lindy.Trapp@usda.gov), 785-250-7830

## Small Animal Facilities' Webinars

The June 2021, KDA Animal Facility Inspection (AFI) online webinars covered a variety of issues that are of interest to AFI facility operators, managers, staff and volunteers.

Each 60-minute webinar consisted of a guest speaker, followed by an opportunity for participants to ask questions of the presenters and other KDA-AFI staff. The following webinars were recorded and are available to watch through the following links:

- **Animal Cruelty/Abuse.** Andrew Campbell, Founder/CEO Campbell Research & Consulting. Mr. Campbell is an expert on family violence and the associated risks of harm for adults, children and animal companions residing in homes where this violence occurs; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yHR7XUvjY6M>
- **Documentation, Resources and Finances.** Adrienne Heard, MBA, CBA – dba Heard Management; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIPnUDzZCEA>
- **Importing Animals.** Dr. Cara Williams, DVM – Zoonoses Team, U.S. CDC Control and Prevention; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3S1pKfre2Qc>
- **Tax Information.** Carl York – Kansas Department of Revenue; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EwIwrZGYIsY>
- **Pet Disaster Preparedness.** Dr. Warren Hess, DVM, Asst. Director Div. of Animal and Public Health – Disaster Coordinator - American Veterinary Medical Association; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8y-8aDv7ZA>
- **Wrap-up Session – KDA-AFI Team.** Tyler Kauer – Program Manager, Dr. Mark Olson – Inspector, Christopher Demel – Inspector, Ben Lancaster – Inspector, Michelle Florence – Administrative Assistant; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HA1TUhO44ZA>

## USDA's Update for RFID Use

### USDA Announces Intent to Pursue Rulemaking on Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) Use in Animal Disease Traceability

*USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service sent this bulletin at 03/23/2021 04:55 PM EDT*

After reviewing 944 public comments on a July 2020 notice that proposed to approve Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) as the official eartag for use in interstate movement of cattle, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) has decided to use the rulemaking process for future action related to this proposal. This means that the original notice will not be finalized, and that all current APHIS-approved methods of identification may be used as official identification until further notice.

APHIS continues to believe that RFID tags will provide the cattle industry with the best protection against the rapid spread of animal diseases and will therefore continue to encourage the use of RFID tags while rulemaking is pending.

An official eartag is defined as an identification tag approved by APHIS that bears an official identification number for individual animals. Under the current regulations, eartags may be used as official identification, and both visual-only metal and plastic tags, as well as RFID tags are current options. The animal disease traceability (ADT) regulations for cattle apply only to sexually intact beef animals over 18 months of age moving in interstate commerce, cattle used for exhibition, rodeo and recreational events, and all dairy cattle. The regulations permit brands and tattoos as acceptable identification if the shipping and receiving States agree and group/lot identification when a group/lot identification number (GIN) may be used.

APHIS will continue to share news and information about efforts related to ADT and the use of RFID tags, and there will be an opportunity for public comment during the rulemaking process.

## Equine Economic Impact Survey

The Kansas Horse Council, with support from KDA, is seeking equine owners across Kansas to participate in an Equine Economic Impact survey to generate data and information regarding this segment of the livestock industry. The purpose of this voluntary survey is to assess the current economic contributions of Kansas' equine sector.

To access the survey, visit [www.tinyurl.com/equineks](http://www.tinyurl.com/equineks) or contact Justine Staten (785-776-0662, [director@kansashorsecouncil.com](mailto:director@kansashorsecouncil.com)).

## Training Provides Livestock Compost SMEs

A major mission and responsibility of KDA-DAH is supporting the animal health and livestock industry by helping to ensure a safe food supply, promoting public health and safety, and protecting animal health. This includes being able to effectively and efficiently respond to a Foreign Animal Disease (FAD) outbreak.

Appropriate disposal of animal carcasses and materials is a critical component of a successful FAD response in order to contain and eradicate the disease. Achieving these goals will allow individual livestock facilities and industries to resume normal production as quickly as possible.

With support from industry partners, KDA requested Farm Bill funds to increase Livestock Mortality Compost Subject Matter Experts (SME) throughout the state and region. While rendering carcasses into valued by-products is still considered a viable option for some producers, limited access to rendering plants in some areas of the state and the producer-incurred expense for large-scale disposal have positioned livestock mortality composting as an effective and environmentally sound alternative.

Special training is required to qualify as a USDA Large-scale Livestock Mortality Compost SME; currently, there are only five in Kansas. Part of this specialized training includes completing a livestock mortality compost course. In early June, Dr. Brittany Howell, an associate professor of animal science at Fort Hays State University (FHSU) who has been teaching livestock mortality composting in her beef and dairy production classes for the past seven years, hosted nine interested individuals for a 3-day livestock mortality compost course. Other instructors included Ken Powell and Emery Wiens with Kansas Department of Health

and Environment, Dr. DeAnn Presley with Kansas State University, and Craig Wood with Johnson County.

For the nine individuals to complete their SME training, KDA will host a 2-week course in the Spring of 2022 where participants will complete large scale composting activities.



*Livestock mortality compost course participants monitor a test pile during the 3-day training in Hays, Kansas. Livestock Mortality Compost SMEs are needed nationwide to prepare for widespread livestock mortalities in a disease outbreak..*

## Secure Food Supply Updates

### 2021 Assessment Released

All participants of the Secure Food Supply are expected to complete an assessment of their plan in 2021, in order to remain compliant with program guidelines. The plan update consists of a five question survey, which provides livestock facilities the opportunity to update or change their enhanced biosecurity plan, request assistance for employee training, and connect with KDA staff. Consulting veterinarians are encouraged to assist in the completion of the plan update. Click this link for the assessment: <https://fs22.formsite.com/KansasDeptAg/hugkkshnkd/index.html>.



### Secure Beef Permit Drill

On August 3, 2021, Kansas Secure Beef participants, along with neighboring states and industry stakeholders, will be testing the infrastructure of Kansas' permitting system. Contact KDA-DAH to learn more about the drill or if you wish to participate.

### Secure Food Supply Contact Person:

Emily (Voris) Davis, Animal Health Planner  
785-210-7741, emily.voris@ks.gov

## Temporary Suspension of Dogs Entering the U.S. from Countries Classified by CDC as High Risk for Dog Rabies

(Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, June 14, 2021)

This letter is to notify you that CDC is temporarily suspending the importation of all dogs from countries classified by CDC as [high-risk for canine rabies \(dog rabies\)](#). This suspension will be announced this afternoon on [CDC's website](#) (this link as well as the links below will become live at 4:15pm) and will be published in the *Federal Register Notice* on June 16.

Between January and December 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, CDC documented more than 450 dogs arriving from countries classified as high-risk for dog rabies with incomplete, inadequate, or fraudulent rabies vaccination certificates, resulting in the denial of entry for the dogs and subsequent return to the dogs' country of origin. Because of limited flights to return improperly certified dogs, these denials sometimes led to dogs being housed in suboptimal circumstances. Resolving these incidents humanely, while still preventing the risk of rabies importation, required substantial efforts by airlines (in whose custody these dogs are left), Customs and Border Protection, CDC, local public health agencies, and other interested parties.

**Effective July 14, 2021, CDC is temporarily suspending the importation of dogs from countries classified by CDC as high-risk for dog rabies.** This includes dogs arriving from countries NOT at high-risk if the dogs have been in a high-risk country during the previous 6 months. This temporary suspension will not affect individuals importing dogs from countries with low-risk or no-known risk for dog rabies, or United States citizens and lawful residents returning with pets (provided all exemption requirements are met).

This temporary suspension is necessary to ensure the health and safety of dogs imported into the United States and to protect the public's health against the reintroduction of dog rabies virus variants. Dog rabies was declared eliminated from the United States in 2007. Rabies is one of the deadliest zoonotic diseases and accounts for an estimated 59,000 human deaths globally each year. Dog rabies is responsible for 99% of these deaths. During the temporary suspension, CDC will establish a process for dog importation from high-risk rabies countries that ensures all certifications are in place before dogs board international flights.

This suspension applies to all dogs, including puppies, emotional support dogs, and dogs that traveled out of the United States and are returning from a high-risk country. The suspension is temporary and will be reviewed periodically.

While the suspension is in place, CDC may grant advanced written approval (CDC Dog Import Permit) permitting the importation of fully rabies-immunized dogs, 6 months or older, from a high-risk country.

To be eligible to apply for a CDC Dog Import Permit, the importer must be:

- a US government employee with permanent change of station or temporary duty orders;
- a US citizen or lawful US resident relocating to the United States, such as for employment or education; or
- an owner of a service dog that is specifically trained to assist a person with a disability.

Each eligible importer may be permitted to bring in a maximum of 3 personal pet dogs one time during the temporary suspension. Institutions requesting to import more than 3 dogs may apply to do so for the purposes of science, education, or exhibition as defined in 42 CFR 71.50, or for bona fide law enforcement activities. View the [application instructions](#) for more details.

Dogs with CDC Import Permits must enter the United States at a port of entry with a US Customs and Border Protection (CBP)-issued live animal care facility with a - Facilities Information and Resource Management System (FIRMS) code, which currently is only available at the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City. Additional approved ports of entry will be added to the [application website](#) as they become available.

Dogs arriving from high-risk countries without a CDC Dog Import Permit or arriving at an unapproved port of entry will be denied entry to the United States and will be returned to the country of departure. Permits will not be issued upon arrival. *There are no exceptions.* If a dog is denied entry to the United States, the airline will be required to return the dog to the country of departure on the next available flight, regardless of carrier or route. Appeals are not permitted. *If the importer abandons the dog or attempts to interfere with the return process, CDC will consider the dog abandoned and the airline carrier will become legally and financially responsible for the dog.*

If you have any questions about this letter or CDC's dog importation regulations, please contact us via email at [cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov](mailto:cdcanimalimports@cdc.gov).