

## **BEVA Circulation 26.02.21 Event in Valencia, Spain**

In response to the recent media attention around EHV cases linked to Valencia's Spring Showjumping Tour we felt it was worth providing a brief synopsis of the situation so all members are equipped to deal with the questions that will inevitably arise and can help in preventing unnecessary panic.

On 20 February 2021, the FEI Veterinary Department was informed that four horses that had participated at the CES Valencia Spring Tour 2021 had tested positive to EHV-1 following PCR laboratory analysis of nasopharyngeal swabs. The affected horses had left the venue on 14 February and showed clinical signs consistent with the disease shortly afterwards. By 25 February the International Collating Centre indicated that it was aware of an outbreak of EHV-1 neurological disease in France and three separate premises with clinical EHV-1 respiratory disease in Belgium. All 4 outbreaks were linked to horses returning from Valencia.

All competitors from Valencia have been traced by the FEI and have been provided with clear guidelines on the measures they should take ([see here](#)). In short horses should be isolated and remain so until appropriate diagnostic testing has been performed. It would be prudent for rectal temperature to be taken twice daily on horses returning from Valencia and any possible in-contacts. It is BEVA's understanding that there are a number of UK competitors returning home with in-contact horses.

BEVA would urge members to emphasize to their clients the importance of competitors fully adhering to the guidelines that have been provided by the FEI. Veterinary surgeons should also remain alert to the possibility of EHV-1 having been transmitted to other horses that have been in-contact with horses returning from Valencia.

If biosecurity measures are implemented as directed the risk of onward transmission is very small and horses owners should be advised to take sensible precautions but not to panic.

This episode serves as a reminder of the importance of biosecurity, vaccination and having plans in place for protecting horses travelling to, and returning home from, events. It might provide a good opportunity to engage with owners over their vaccination and biosecurity protocols so their horses are better protected against future infectious disease threats.

[The FEI advice to competitors can be seen here.](#)

Further information on EHV is [available here](#).

Further information on cases reported to the International Collating Centre is [available here](#).