

EIA (Coggins) Policy 2018

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) is a fatal disease in that options for a positive horse are extremely limited and almost all positive horses are euthanized pursuant to state and USDA guidelines. Due to at least 15 EIA positive horses in Washington, Oregon and Idaho in 2015-16, it is imperative that we continue our practice of requiring a valid negative Coggins test (approved test for the EIA disease) for ALL horses entering any fair meet racetrack in Oregon. This is the same policy that was in place during the 2016 and 2017 summer fair meet season.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) requires a negative Coggins test within the prior 6 months for importation of Equidae into Oregon. On February 13, 2017, the ODA terminated the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that had exempted Washington and Idaho from the Coggins requirement. The 6-month Coggins requirement for horses entering the fairgrounds under the jurisdiction of the ORC is substantially the same policy in place at racetracks throughout the country, including Portland Meadows and Emerald Downs. It is also consistent with the 6-month timeline in use and enforced throughout the United States for horse movement across state lines.

The Oregon Racing Commission will therefore, by policy, require ALL horses entering onto a fair meet racetrack in Oregon to have a valid negative Coggins within 6 months of entering the fairgrounds.

Compliance:

Licensed and accredited veterinarians have USDA-issued Coggins form books that contain pre-numbered, color-coded, multi-duplicate NCR (no carbon required) forms. These Coggins forms are filled out by the veterinarian, submitted to the lab and, AFTER the lab records the results of the test, the form is returned to the various parties (owner, veterinarian, etc.). Because there has been a forgery concerning the Coggins form, the provisions below have been adopted for compliance with the ORC Coggins policy.

Regulation and Enforcement:

1. All horses entering a racetrack in Oregon shall be accompanied by a valid ORIGINAL color Owner NCR Coggins form duplicate indicating the negative status within 6 months. No photo copies of the Original owner NCR form will be accepted. A color photograph or an electronic image (cell phone) of the ORIGINAL color owner NCR form duplicate may be accepted.
2. The racing secretary shall verify the ORIGINAL color owner NCR Coggins form duplicate and make a photocopy of that form to be kept for review by ORC personnel.
3. The racing secretary will record the date of the Coggins on the front of the trainer's file folder. If possible, the racing secretary will enter the negative Coggins information onto InCompass and monitor the valid dates from there as well.
4. The Oregon Racing Commission will provide copy paper to the racing secretary of each meet in order for them to make a copy of the ORIGINAL valid negative Coggins form.
5. If possible, there will be a quarantine area at each meet so that a horse without Valid Negative Coggins papers can stay in quarantine while the track veterinarian submits blood and provides proof of the negative Coggins. In those cases, the ORC may approve the horse based on a phone picture verification as the ORIGINAL NCR copy may not make it back to the trainer in time to run at that meet. With approval from a steward or state veterinarian, the horse can be moved back into the general horse population and enter for races. Every effort shall be made by Association personnel to prevent a horse without a valid negative Coggins from entering the grounds in those cases where a track does not have a quarantine area.
6. Every effort will be made to ensure that every horse on the backside will have valid negative Coggins regardless if they have papers in the race office. Stewards, Investigators, Association representatives and the State Veterinarian will walk shedrows and view copies of the negative Coggins papers to regulate the policy.

The ORC realizes that there is a financial burden to the trainer/owner for compliance with this policy. However, an outbreak of EIA is devastating to the industry and carries serious financial and emotional consequences. Through diligence and cooperation we can prevent the occurrence of an outbreak. This is similar to an outbreak of small pox or polio in people. Historically, there are cases when thousands of horses were euthanized due to the spread of this contagious disease. We hope by these measures to eradicate this terrible disease and sincerely appreciate the cooperation of horsemen and horsewomen throughout the region. Please note that a horse will not need more than two of these tests per year and, depending on the timing of the test and the race meets in which a particular horse may participate, a horse may need only one test per calendar year.