**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Equine Animal Health Advisory Committee Report**

**January 29, 2021**

The following is a summary prepared by Dr. Samantha Beaty, State Veterinarian and Assistant Commissioner for Animal Health, sent to Dr. Monty McInturff regarding the attached spreadsheet outlining equine diseases from 2010 – 2020.

Dr. McInturff,

The status of disease in Tennessee horses fluctuates from year to year. Diseases of concern include viral and bacterial diseases known to affect humans, including Eastern Equine Encephalitis, West Nile Virus, Rabies and Brucellosis. EEE, WNV in horses may be indicative of presence of virus in the vector population (horses being a sentinel animal “canary in the coal mine”, so to speak). Rabies and brucellosis are transmissible to humans from horses and present a public health threat. Other diseases such as Equine Infectious Anemia and Equine Piroplasmosis may be directly indicative of ongoing activities in the underground horse racing community here in Tennessee which include “doping” horses without practicing sterile measures to prevent transmission of disease.

In the past year we have also seen reports of Equine Strangles, Potomac Horse Fever, and Equine Influenza. While these are not reportable diseases, we want to alert owners in the vicinity of these horse to potential disease threats.

I have attached an excel spreadsheet with the last 10 years of information on reportable diseases. There is currently one horse on permanent EIA quarantine in the state. All the horses diagnosed with Equine Piroplasmosis since 2011 can be epidemiologically linked to bush track racing present in the state. Some of these horses had previous sanctioned race history. In 2016 the 25 affected horses were clustered on four premises and in 2019, 26 horses were clustered on six different premises. All but two of the horses have been treated and cleared of the disease. Two have been awaiting treatment after the drug imidocarb was on back order from the manufacturer. It has recently been available again and I expect the two horses to be treated soon.

There was one case of Brucella suis reported in a mare who aborted, and the fetus and placenta were tested at UTCVM. Because this disease can affect humans, it is important to make sure the state health department become involved to guide the horse owner. This horse was imported from Texas just shortly before aborting, but with the feral population of swine in this state carrying B. suis, it is not out of the realm of possibility that we will see this in horses in the future.

Samantha Beaty, D.V.M.

State Veterinarian/Assistant Commissioner for Animal Health