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Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC)

Temporary waiver of Requirements to Test Thoroughbred Horses for Piroplasmiasis Prior to Entering a Sanctioned Racetrack

February 2, 2015

AUSTIN - The Executive Director of the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) has temporarily waived the requirement for thoroughbred horses to be tested for Piroplasmiasis before entering a sanctioned racetrack facility in Texas, January 28, 2015.

A Piroplasmiasis (Piro) test remains a requirement for Quarter Horses at sanctioned racetrack facilities and all horses at unsanctioned racetracks.

Equine Piroplasmiasis is a tick-borne protozoal infection of horses. At least one species of tick, *Amblyomma cajennense*, has proven capable of transmitting the blood parasite. This spread between horses by unsafe animal husbandry practices such as sharing needles or equipment that is contaminated with blood. While Piroplasmiasis can be a fatal disease, many horses may display vague signs of illness, such as fever, inappetence or jaundice. Several states have imposed interstate movement restrictions on horses from Texas.

For more information regarding the temporary waiver visit our website, contact your local TAHC region or call 1-800-550-8242 or visit www.tahc.texas.gov.

To learn more about Piroplasmiasis, visit the TAHC's brochure at http://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_Piroplasmiasis.pdf