

Update on Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) (updated 7/25/19)

Attention Donkey Owners,

As of June 3rd the first case of Vesicular Stomatitis Virus (VSV) was reported. We are 20 or so days in and there are 114 investigations (most investigations are finished), and 50 quarantined cases, 2 Ranches have been released. There are still more cases coming in daily, that have to be confirmed and released.

This is not a deadly virus.

NO donkey in the State of Colorado has ever contracted VSV.

One case in Loveland has two donkey living with the horse that has VSV and did not contract the virus.

There should be no panic, just keep an extra eye out.

Be assured that each Race Director is taking this seriously.

You enter each race at your own risk, all the race itself can do is educate the participants.

Be observant of your donkeys, watch the videos below and look for the signs. A vet check can't prevent VSV, your donkey will tell you way before your vet that it is ill. There is a 2-8 day period from when the animal catches the VSV to when it starts giving signs of the virus. So a 2-5 day vet check is really not a good plan for your animal. When the incubation period ranges from 2-8 days. There is no test the vet will do to give you a health certificate. They will only look the animal over for signs. You can do that. It is something you do every day as their caretaker. A Vet can only treat the symptoms and quarantine your animals. There is no vaccine available as of yet. The vaccine has been created but has not made it through the federal government. The Donkey owner is the first line of defense to stop the spread.

Your plan should be to put eyes on your animals and look for symptoms the day you load your animal for the race. If there is a symptom please go visit your vet.

The Colorado State Vet.

"The incubation period ranges from 2-8 days. Clinical signs include vesicles, erosions, and sloughing of the skin on the muzzle, tongue, ears, teats, and coronary bands. **Often excessive salivation is the first sign of disease**, along with a reluctance to eat or drink. Lameness and weight loss may follow.

Humans may become infected when handling affected animals, but this is a rare event. To avoid human exposure, individuals should use personal protective measures when handling affected animals."

What to do if you are attending a pack burro race.

1. Check your animal closely, look for symptoms. Remember salivating should be the first sign...
2. Bring your own water buckets and feed buckets. DO NOT SHARE!
3. Do not share gear or brushes.
4. Fly control is HUGE in controlling the spread. Please bring bags for poop clean up and spray for your critters.

Each race is working on having a Vet on site, to do inspections where they can.

We care about you and your animals, and ask you to be diligent and observant during this time. A race director can't control VSV, even with a Vet on site. Because a Vet can only confirm once the VSV has started symptoms. We ask you the animal owner to be up to date on this issue, please take a moment and view the bottom 4 links.

1. My conversation with Dr. Heckendorf on 7/18/2019 at 11:30am

<https://youtu.be/yUQmzjB4fR4>

2. This is a great educational video.

[Vesicular Stomatitis](#)

3. CSU - Great first 10 min.

[Vesicular Stomatitis Virus \(VSV\)](#)

4. Colorado State Vet - Last updated on 7/18/2019 10am

[Vesicular stomatitis cases confirmed in a total of six Colorado counties](#)