



Update: Vesicular Stomatitis in horses in the USA

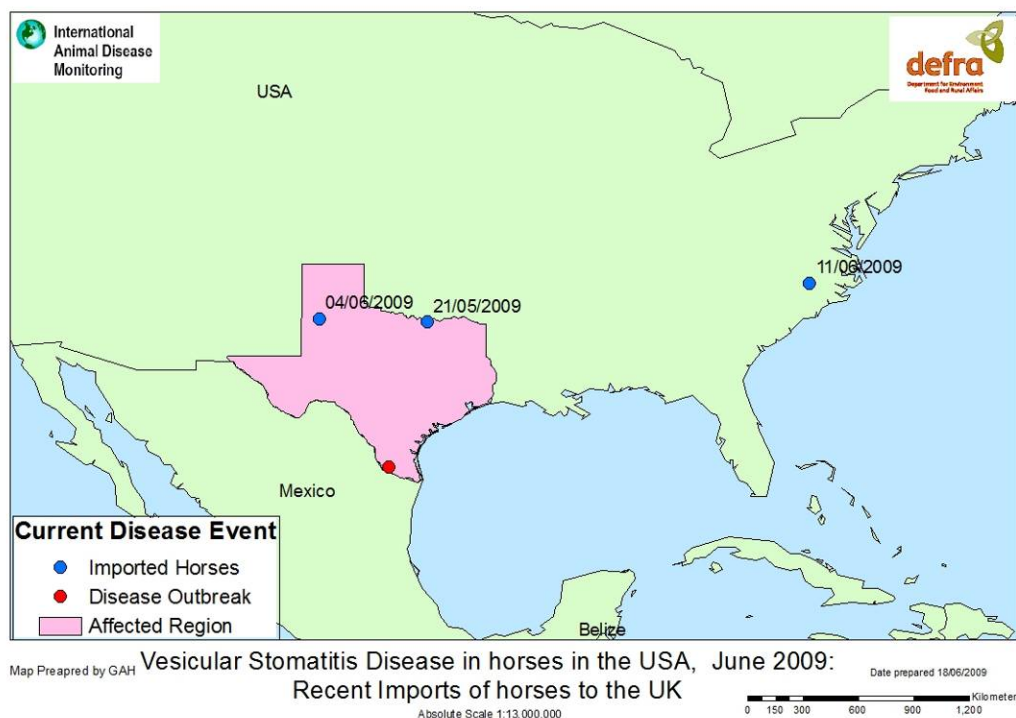
Note: Defra's Global Animal Health (GAH) monitors outbreaks of high impact diseases around the world. Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) is among those diseases of major concern.

1 Disease Report

This report updates our previous preliminary outbreak assessment on Vesicular Stomatitis of 16th June, 2009 (Defra, 2009). As a follow-up in the UK, we have now received new information on the situation in the USA and on horses exported to the UK which requires the previous preliminary outbreak assessment to be updated accordingly.

2 Situation Assessment

The serotype involved in the current outbreak is the New Jersey serotype, which is the one responsible for outbreaks in the USA in 2004, 2005 and 2006, as well as all the recent outbreaks in Mexico. Epidemiological investigations are still underway to determine the origin of the disease and whether there is a link to outbreaks over the border or if this is a re-occurrence. In previous years, infections were reported from Texas, but the heaviest disease burden was reported in 2004 (USAHA, 2006).



As stated in the previous report, according to TRACES, the EU Trade Electronic Notification System, 42 horses from the whole of USA have entered the UK either directly or via the EU since 21st May 2009. Follow-up investigations into the horse which arrived at the UK and appeared to be closest to the outbreak revealed that the originating address had been incorrectly given as

Selma, Texas instead of Selma, North Carolina (see updated map). As VS has not been reported from North Carolina, we currently consider that this horse would pose a negligible risk. The other two horses from Texas were imported outside the incubation period and would also be considered to pose a negligible risk.

TRACES shows that there have been no imports of livestock animals (cattle, sheep, goats, pigs) from the USA in the last few months. TRACES also shows no imports of any live animals from Mexico.

3 Conclusions

On the basis of the new information received, we continue to consider that there would be a negligible risk of VS being introduced to the UK via legal trade in live animals as a consequence of this outbreak report.

Border Inspection Posts have already been informed of this outbreak and will be carrying out checks on horses originating in the USA, as required.

In general, this update emphasises the importance of compliance with Exporter / Importer information when any live animal or trade in animal products is carried out. It is also important that correct information is given to allow a rapid and proportionate response to an apparent increase in disease risk.

We will continue to monitor the situation and provide updates as appropriate.

4 References

Defra (2009) Vesicular Stomatitis in Horses in the USA.

<http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/diseases/monitoring/pdf/vs-horses-usa-090616.pdf> Accessed 18/06/09.

USAHA (2006) Vesicular Stomatitis Virus 2004/2005/2006 US Outbreak.

http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/nahss/equine/vsv/usaha_2006_VSV_presentation.ppt Accessed 15/06/09.