



Ernie Morales  
Chairman

Dee B. Ellis, D.V.M., M.P.A.  
Executive Director

**ORDER DESIGNATING KLEBERG COUNTY AS A HIGH RISK COUNTY  
FOR PIROPLASMOSIS AND TO TEST ALL EQUINE**

WHEREAS, equine Piroplasmosis (Piroplasmosis) is a disease of horses and other equine caused by the protozoa *Theileria equi* or *Babesia caballi*. A number of species of ticks are capable of transmitting the disease. At least one species, *Amblyomma cajennense*, is endemic to South Texas. Equine Piroplasmosis is considered a foreign animal disease in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, in October 2009, a horse in South Texas was diagnosed with Piroplasmosis. Additional testing of horses revealed a high percentage to be positive for the disease. Additional cases of Piroplasmosis were disclosed in this area of South Texas and in other parts of the state and country through testing of horses, and;

WHEREAS, a disease investigation is conducted each time a Piroplasmosis affected horse is disclosed. A recent investigation of two such horses indicated possible exposure to other horses in a common pasture in Kenedy County. Forty-nine horses were tested in the pasture, and nine horses were found positive for the disease. Establishment of a high risk area and subsequent testing of resident equine would determine the disease status of horses in the area, and help assure the Texas equine population is free of Piroplasmosis, and;

WHEREAS, Texas Agriculture Code §161.048 provides an agent of the Texas Animal Health Commission (Commission) is entitled to stop and inspect a shipment of animals or animal products being transported in this state in order to determine if the shipment originated from a quarantined area or herd; or determine if the shipment presents a danger to the public health or livestock industry through insect infestation or through a communicable or noncommunicable disease, and;

WHEREAS, Texas Agriculture Code §161.054 provides as a control measure, that the Commission may restrict the intrastate movement of animals even though the movement of the animals is unrestricted in interstate or international commerce. The Commission require testing, vaccination, or another epidemiologically sound procedure before or after animals are moved, and;

Brandon Bouma  
Randy C. Brown  
William Edmiston, Jr., D.V.M.  
Ken Jordan  
Thomas G. Kezar  
Coleman H. Locke

COMMISSIONERS:

Charles E. "Chuck" Real  
Ralph Simmons  
Mike Vickers, D.V.M.  
Mark A. Wheelis  
Beau White  
R. W. "Dick" Winters, Jr.

WHEREAS, the Commission by rule may prescribe criteria for classifying areas in the state for disease control and may prescribe different control measures and procedures for areas with different classifications, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission may authorize the Executive Director or another employee to sign written instruments on behalf of the Commission. A written instrument, including a quarantine or written notice signed under that authority, has the same force and effect as if signed by the entire Commission, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission has adopted a rule found in the Texas Administrative Code §49.6 and entitled "Piroplasmiasis: Area or County Test", that authorizes the Executive Director of the Commission to issue an order for equine to be tested in a high risk area or county based on sound epidemiological principles for disease detection, control, and eradication, and;

WHEREAS, based on sound epidemiological principles for disease detection, control, and eradication, which includes the presence of disease vectors (ticks), multiple positive animals in the area, and common husbandry and animal use practices, Kleberg County is designated as a high risk area for Piroplasmiasis.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Executive Director of the Commission is issuing an order designating Kleberg County as a high risk area for Piroplasmiasis and that all equine located in the County are required to be tested by Commission personnel.

FURTHERMORE, if an equine is refused for testing it will be restricted by the Commission to a premise and it will be necessary for Commission personnel to issue certificates or permits permitting movement prior to being tested.

This Order will remain in effect until modified, amended or rescinded.



Dee Ellis, D.V.M.  
Executive Director  
Texas Animal Health Commission

03/13/2013  
Date: