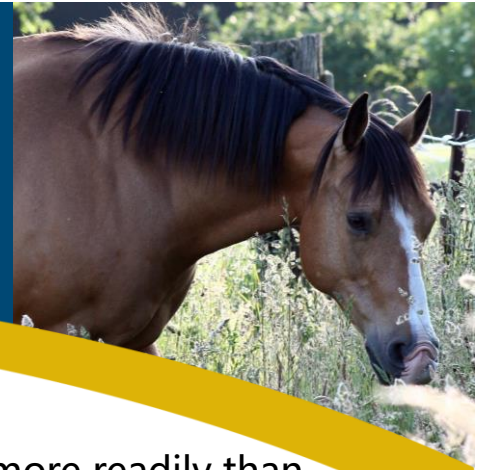


Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis (HYPP)



What is hyperkalemic periodic paralysis?

- Inherited disease that causes muscles to contract more readily than normal due to excess potassium in the blood
- Affected horses can experience unpredictable attacks of muscle tremors, weakness, paralysis, and collapse.
- A DNA test is available to confirm diagnosis of affected animals.
- Only one copy of the mutation is needed to produce the disease. Horses with two copies of the mutation are usually more severely affected.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Breeders can prevent HYPP by performing DNA testing on potential sires and dams.
- Breeding an affected horse with two copies of the causative mutation will result in all offspring having at least one copy of the mutation, regardless of the status of the other parent.
- Horses with HYPP are affected for life, but most improve under appropriate management.

Signs

Muscle tremors
Weakness
Paralysis
Collapse
Loud breathing
Sudden death

Cause

- Inherited (autosomal dominant)
- Causative mutation identified
- Affected horses have one or two copies of the mutation

Treatment

- Avoid high potassium feeds
- Frequent access to turnout and/or regular exercise
- Avoid rapid changes in feed

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393. For genetic testing, contact the Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at vgl.ucdavis.edu.*



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