



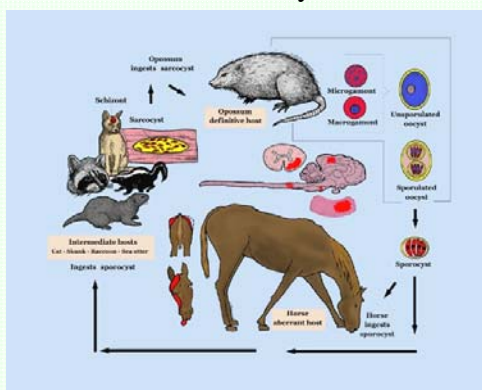
# OVER HERD

June 2014

## About 'EPM'

Discovered in the 1960's by Dr. Jim Rooney, (*EPM*) *Equine protozoal myeloencephalitis* is a protozoa hosted in opossum stool and spread by an intermediary host such as carrion-eating birds or in contaminated water sources. Horses cannot pass the parasite on to other horses because the horse is a 'dead end' host. EPM used to be considered rare but as symptoms and pathogenic evidence became more easily identifiable, it was found that the disease is more prevalent than first thought.

Sweet feed is a known harbor of EPM protozoa because it is not heated adequately enough (160 degrees or higher) to kill the protozoa. There are six subspecies of the *S. neurona* parasite and one or more migrate to the horse's spine and brain. The disease causes the death of many horses.



At HPS we use Pathogenes in FL for testing and treatment. We have had great success treating horses and full cures have been obtained. The symptoms can be widely varied and not just an unsteady gait in the hindquarter as commonly seen in horses with EPM.

## Big, Beautiful and Sick

Who doesn't love a Thoroughbred? This big gelding was on the track for three years, but mostly in claiming races, which are low level races with small purses of \$25,000 to \$30,000. A claiming race is where anyone can pay the price set and buy one of the horses in the race. He was never sold this way and had the same owner over the years. His highest year of earnings was when he made a little over \$70,000. He was started racing as a three year old.

His registered name is **Eastbound**. About 2009 or 2010 he was given to Thoroughbred Placement Resources, which is a small rescue with limits to resources and to the number of horses they can help. Eastbound was diagnosed with EPM and treated twice with Marquis as well as an herbal treatment. The records as to exactly when this took place were not available



nor what the herbal treatment was.

Eastbound was then placed with a woman here in North Carolina and from here the story becomes sketchier. I have tried to phone the previous person and have not received a return phone call. There was a contract that stated the horse was to be returned if no longer wanted. The TPP rescue is in Maryland and the cost to return the horse would have been considerable. Instead the horse was given away to a young girl.

The story takes a sad turn when Eastbound was placed in a boarding stable that did not feed him nearly enough or, according to the young girl, often enough and the feed they used was a type of sweet feed. The horse was moved to a new stable that continued to feed the old type feed mixed with a better quality feed, but was taking way too long to get him off of the sweet feed. At some point he started showing signs of the EPM returning.

**(Cont. Page 2)**

## ***Big, Beautiful and Sick (Cont. from Page 1)***

The young girl was trying to do everything possible for the horses, but had very limited funds. The stable owner was insisting that Eastbound receive all of his vaccinations. A horse that is not well should never be given vaccines! It is very hard on a horse with an already compromised immune system and can cause the underlying illness to become even worse.

The young person called HPS and explained the dilemma she was facing with her ten year old horse and the lack of funds and knowledge to have the horse treated or to provide for him. This horse was in as much danger of dying as any starved horse that comes to the sanctuary. Without the correct treatment he could go down at any time and may never get up again. Marquis is a treatment most often used by veterinarians. It only kills one type of protozoa and there are three types. The treatment we use has not been FDA approved, but that doesn't necessarily mean it isn't effective!

HPS had a full blood panel done on Eastbound to check for liver and kidney damage that can be caused by some EPM treatments. A specimen has been sent to the company we use for testing and we hope to hear back shortly on the results. There are other diseases that can mimic symptoms of EPM and we want to be sure to treat accordingly.

HPS already has a really good person interested in providing a quality home for Eastbound when he has fully recovered and gained the rest of his weight back.

Eastbound will pick a new name after he has been at the sanctuary a little longer.

**Update:** The test results for EPM were just emailed to HPS. Sag #1 -32, Sag #5 – 32 and Sag #6 – 32, these are high numbers for all three types of protozoa. The 10 day treatment of Oroquin will be overnighted to the sanctuary so we can start his treatment as soon as possible.

## **Health Tips**

**Why even risk killing yourself?** I have written about the artificial sweetening product, Aspartame in a previous article. An almost decade-long study of 60,000 women has confirmed that drinking diet soda with Aspartame is linked with a 50 percent increase in death risk. The women in the study were post menopausal and it was not conducted in the best scientific bases. Aspartame is a neurotoxin and there are over 90 side effects linked to its consumption. Also it is present in many off-the-shelf products including chewing gum and diet sodas. No type of soda is very healthy but those containing Aspartame are of particular concern. The FDA has outlawed Aspartame twice in the past and then reversed their decision under pressure from outside sources.

**Certified organic mangosteen powder** used by some superfood manufacturers has shown in some tests to actually contain 11.4 ppm of lead. An alarming concentration of a toxic substance! The key is to be an educated consumer and if you have any doubt about whether or not a product containing the powder has been tested, ask the manufacturer directly. You have a right to know.

**New GMO study** by a team from Germany and Egypt showed high levels of glyphosate in their urine and organs of animals and humans exposed to GMO food and animals fed GMO products. The most chronically ill participants in the study tested high for glyphosate, which is present in Roundup that is sprayed on GMO crops. These crops are corn, canola, sugar beets, soy beans and cotton. Sweet corn in the grocery stores may now contain GMOs.

Products labeled “**Natural**” or “**All Natural**” often contains GMO products. This is allowed by law. Products labeled “**Certified Organic**” can only have a very tiny percent of GMO products in them.



## Honors and Memorials

Happy Birthday, Sarah Britt. By Lisa Mauriello

Betty Lentz has been honored for Mother's Day By Floyd Lentz.

In honor of Ann Hough, my wife, for Mother's Day. By Ben Hough

In honor of Pat Copeland. By Marilyn and Edward Gideon

In honor of Lauri Pistolis. By Glenda Thompson

In memory of "Midnight," our 16 year old border collie mix - We miss you so. By Mom & Cody dog

In honor of Suzanne Casey. By P. Featherston

The rescue sling was purchased in remembrance of Bob and Betty Laferty.

### *A Special Thanks To Our Wonderful Contributors*

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### News from the Herd

**Kit Carson's** eye has improved greatly! His treatments are continuing and the lavage system we had put in has helped greatly and is so much less stressful for him. We have not gotten the bill yet and I am holding my breath. HPS did receive a generous donation that has covered his treatment costs.

**Teton** got a cut on his neck just under his jaw that required stitches. Everything here was built to be safe for horses and who knows how they do these things to themselves!

**Taiga** is a wonderful Standardbred horse and this breed can be stoic. I was walking through the lower barn and Taiga was in a stall with another horse friend when she walked out and stood sideways with her head right by my eyes. I would have had to



be blind not to see the cut under her head from above her chin and open towards her throatlatch. She showed no other signs of anything else wrong. We brought her up to one of the hospital stalls. The veterinarian was called to sew up her cut and then she sneezed/coughed and food came out of her nose. It was obvious she also had a choke. The vet was called back since now it was an emergency to get the choke relieved. **Santa Fe** has a new wonderful home and will be a therapeutic horse for folks suffering trauma in their life. He has gone to a past feeder who dearly loved him when she was volunteering. When she saw that he had been changed to a Pasture Pet she contacted HPS right away.



**Miakoda** has joined Midnight Sun in her new home. The two horses are doing great together and have become fast friends.