

Additional Information & Our Theory on EPM

EPM (Equine Protozoal Myelitis) is a parasitic disease of the nervous system of the horse. Vectors are reportedly wild animals, such as the opossum and raccoon, that shed the protozoa in their manure, which can be baled in hay or dropped in bag feed if not stored properly.

However, one fact seems to fly in the face of this logic. Why has this disease only been reported in the last 15 years or so, when the organism or parasite was identified over 100 yrs. ago?

Our theory on this situation is that modern medicine, along with large marketing budgets, has caused us to use more vaccinations (and repetitions), more second and third generation antibiotics and more sophisticated drugs such as Bute, Banamine and other NSAID's to keep horses in training longer - whether for racing, training, showing, other athletic events and/or for sales.

Vaccines, although they do help the body to make antibodies against certain diseases, have two problems or more:

1. They have Thiomersol as a preservative, which contains mercury and can be toxic to horses.
2. When we vaccinate a horse with a multi-valent (combo) vaccine, we help the body to make antibodies to all the antigens or components of the combo vaccine. However, we also paralyze that portion of the immune system that protects the body from natural infections. Hence, we weaken the body's immune system so that an opportunistic parasite can start an infection.

Nutrition plays "the" key role in the recovery - as does the elimination of chemical wormers, vaccines, chemical fly sprays, et al until the horse's immune health is recovered. Here are some of the issues we feel contribute to horses being more prone now to getting EPM:

1. We are encouraged to use de-wormers on a daily, monthly or bimonthly schedule to kill intestinal parasites(worms), instead of testing to see if the animal really has parasites. I have found when horses keep relapsing with EPM, they usually are on a very intense worming schedule, which must be discontinued during treatment, and have either been over vaccinated in the past or are currently being vaccinated when not needed. I encourage owners to get blood titers done and stop vaccinating if their titers show they are no longer needed.
2. Nutrition plays "THE" key role in recovery as well, with improvements seen when horses are:

- a) Changed over to an organic feed (Modesto Milling Senior Organic or New Country Organics) or soaked Timothy pellets (Mountain Sunrise) as a delivery system for supplements
- b) Fed a clean high quality hay
- c) Provided high quality vitamins (like the High Point products we sell in our HorseTech [Multivitamin & Minerals](#)) and especially Vitamin E (10K IU) & Vitamin C (10k MG)
- d) Taken off any and all “concentrated” bag feed - especially with soy (vegetable protein)

The horse also needs and benefits from pre/probiotics supplementation to boost immune health, as we do know that horses with a compromised or deficient immune health have a harder time recovering and a much slower time of it as well. But these, too, have to be multi-strain and high potency like our [Equine Zyme](#) or [Equine Zyme Plus](#), which we have manufactured now for over 22 years.

We have also found that horses who get digestive enzymes also do better as they absorb more of the nutrients from the hay and supplements they are being fed, and both Equine Zyme and Equine Zyme Plus have added digestive enzymes along with horse friendly pre/probiotics added to the yeast cultures.

Note: If you have fed low quality bag feed and not supplemented your horse(s) properly, then again, it will take time for them to try to recover as they will have not had what they needed for good health to begin with, and this lack may have contributed to them being more susceptible to EPM.

- 3. Rest is also important to recovery. Horses can and do recover from this dis-ease. You can kill the protozoa with vet meds. You can also be proactive and start a nutritional program for your horse to help them recover, but horses also need rest to recover and should not go directly back to full work or training until all of the nutritional components are addressed for good overall health and well being after any treatment program. **It does not end with a month or Prosil or Marquis**, that is only the beginning. If you do not provide proper long-term supplements and good nutrition, then the chances of full recovery can be questionable at best. We can help you design a nutritional program for your horse.

Our Approach

The treatment program we use/offer for EPM is strictly homeopathic & nutritional. We also include herbs in one of our kits depending on the owner's preference, and offer mushroom/probiotic/colostrum complexes in our Super EPM Kit to help repair the nerve damage from the protozoa.

We use the Nosode (a homeopathic immunization/vaccination made from the spinal fluid from an EPM infected horse) plus a complex of Homeopathics that have an affinity for the nervous system. These include arsenicum album, traumeel, gelsimium, plumbum, and hypericum.

Our protocol for the [basic Homeopathic Kit](#) is as follows:

- The homeopathic complex (Pint Bottle) is administered twice daily until gone.
- The Nosode (spray bottle) is used daily for two weeks and then follows a decreasing schedule every two weeks for three months (2-3 sprays to gums or in the mouth given once daily for two weeks, then every other day for two weeks, then twice weekly for two weeks, then once per week for 6 weeks.) Depending on how your individual horse reacts, you may have to do the daily spray longer.

Results

Results vary, but most **young horses show improvement in days** and usually are well on the way to complete recovery in just three weeks. Some horses may need two treatments depending on the severity of the infection when the Homeopathics are started.

Older horses can, and usually do, take twice as long to respond, but can and do go on to a full recovery - just slower - but only if proper nutrition is provided and supplements are given.

If the horse, especially older horses, has been **re-infected or relapsed multiple times and treated with vet meds** and has continued to “relapse” (or be re-infected) over several years and the owner has not provided excellent nutrition and immune support (probiotics, et al) to help recovery, then the results are not as promising, and our products may not be able to help or will minimally help.

Relapses occur occasionally, but with less frequency when all vaccines, drugs and chemicals are suspended so that the horse’s immune health can be regained, and health restored.

So far, in combination with a holistic vet, we have treated over 2,000 cases with a very high success rate. Even horses that have not been successfully cured with other methods have shown increased health with our methods but each horse and situation is different so results may vary. Commonly, we see the amount of time it can take to recover **depends upon the horse's age and health** at the time they came down with EPM.

We do not and cannot guarantee any certain outcome or result as each situation is different, as is each individual horse, along with each past or current nutritional program or lack thereof.

In addition, we also carry a new product line that has shown great results. It is a colostrum/mushroom complex with probiotics to support the brain as well as spine and nerve of the horse and can be given along with our homeopathic kit. You would have to phone for details on these individual products as they are not on our website.

This information supplied by:
Earth Song Ranch
PO Box 482
Aguanga, Ca 92536

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