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# **Equine Herpesvirus (EHV)**

As many of you know, there has been a recent outbreak of Equine Herpesvirus (EHV) in California. EHV is a family of viruses that are common in horses worldwide. The two most common variants are EHV-1 and EHV-4, both of which commonly cause mild respiratory disease known as rhinopneumonitis. Clinical signs can include fever, nasal discharge, and lethargy. In more severe cases, abortion (in pregnant mares) or neurologic disease can occur. The neurologic form of EHV is commonly referred to as equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHM). Clinical signs include fever, depression, incoordination, hind limb weakness, loss of tail tone, dribbling urine, and recumbency. Unfortunately at this time, there is no way to predict if a horse with EHV will develop EHM though it is thankfully rare.

EHV is transmitted via nose-to-nose contact, contact with nasal discharge or contaminated objects/people, or through aerosol droplets. Horses with clinical signs should be avoided, though it is important to note that some horses can be carriers shedding the virus without signs of disease. Treatment of all forms is supportive care in the form of anti-inflammatory medications and IV fluid therapy. The efficacy of antiviral medications is still being studied.

Prognosis for horses with the respiratory condition is good with most horses returning to work within a few weeks. For horses with EHM prognosis is poor with a fatality rate as high as 30% in the neurologic form. While there is no licensed EHV vaccine proven to protect against EHM, vaccination is protective against severe respiratory disease and abortion, when administered on a regular schedule. The best method of protection is always to maintain current EHV vaccination and follow correct biosecurity protocol when bringing new horses home, traveling, or meeting up with other horses (e.g. clinics and shows). The Vetera 2, Vetera 5, Calvenza, and Prodigy vaccines provide protection against EHV-1 & EHV-4.

In cases of known exposure, isolation of exposed horses, diagnostic testing, and strict biosecurity protocols is recommended. Exposed horses should be isolated for 21 days from the last date of exposure unless 2 negative diagnostic tests have been performed at day 7 and day 14. They should have their temperatures checked twice daily during this time and quarantined if a fever (>38.5C) is noted. If you have concerns about exposure in your barn please do not hesitate to contact the SEVS team for more direct advice on care, testing, and isolation. More information on EHV, EHM, and this specific outbreak can be found at the following links:

- <https://equinediseasecc.org/disease-information/equine-herpesvirus>
- <https://aaep.org/guidelines/infectious-disease-control/equine-herpesvirus-resources>
- [https://www.usef.org/media/press-releases/important-usef-mandate-on-ehv-1-restriction-of?utm\\_source=iMIS+Contacts&utm\\_campaign=130b2b8c64-EMAIL\\_CAMPAIGN\\_2020\\_05\\_15\\_06\\_56\\_COPY\\_01&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_6915462685-130b2b8c64-426000](https://www.usef.org/media/press-releases/important-usef-mandate-on-ehv-1-restriction-of?utm_source=iMIS+Contacts&utm_campaign=130b2b8c64-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2020_05_15_06_56_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_6915462685-130b2b8c64-426000)

# SEVS's 10th Year Anniversary Serving the Equine Community

## - A Reflection of 'THEN' and 'NOW'

I remember the moment the phone was switched to the new business number. It was 8:30 am on Saturday March 17, 2012, when I took a deep breath and prayed the phone would ring. It wasn't long before it did; one hour in fact, with my first call, a colic emergency in Metchosin, that ended unfortunately in euthanasia. As I closed the back door of the black minivan, on loan from Elk Lake Vet Hospital, I drew another deep breath and hoped this wasn't a bad omen.

And in what feels like long journey as well as a blink of an eye, here we are 10 years later. When I pause a moment to look back on how far we have come, the practice and I, its hard to believe so much has changed. Here are some comparisons:

	2012	2022
<b>Staff</b>	Danica & Lynette (from ELVH)	3 DVMs, 2 office staff and 3 assistants
<b>Vehicle</b>	Dodge Minivan later replaced with Sierra	Two Sierras, 2018 & 2019
<b>Office</b>	Danica's home office with Rx pickup at ELVH	Veterinary Clinic, with reception & haul-in
<b>Equipment</b>	8 radiology plates, developed at ELVH 'Portable' ultrasound for breeding only, printed images on paper	Digital Radiology      Digital Ultrasound with 4 probes Prostride Centrifuge    IDEXX Blood Analyzer Gastroscope              SAA, Glucose, Lactate Readers Dental Scope
<b>Clients</b>	~ 200 regulars & 200 irregulars	~ 450 regulars & 150 irregulars
<b>Patients</b>	~ 400 regulars & 400 irregulars	~ 900 regulars & 150 irregulars
<b>Growth</b>	~ 10 new clients & 25 new patients/yr	~ 110 new clients & 250 new patients/yr
<b>Workdays</b>	Regular lunch breaks with late afternoons spent running, boating, other leisure activities	Full 9+ hour workdays, lunches occasionally

The vision for Swiftsure Equine Veterinary Services has never changed, although the road getting here has taken a few detours. As I reflect on the clients, patients and co-workers that helped mould the practice vision and me, as an equine practitioner, I am flooded with an immense sense of gratitude. We have evolved through unplanned practice growth and its associated challenges. I am grateful to the clients, patients and co-workers who were tolerant of the changes, and whose loyalty and patience encouraged me to do my best. Many clients have remained unfailingly loyal, since before SEVS' infancy and I strive every day to value that loyalty. Many clients have been with us since their first horse as junior riders, and are now raising the next generation of horse enthusiasts. And we've been there when many clients close the last chapter on their horse journey. I am grateful to be a part of it all.



Danica & Lynette 'working'

I was recently asked what was my favourite part of equine practice, and my reply was not the challenging procedures, the positive outcomes, or even the beautiful foals, but the relationships I have formed with my clients. It is for these people who have started to feel more like friends or family, that I look forward to 'work' each day. It is why I'm still thankful when the phone rings, though I'm seldom available to answer it anymore.



So, on behalf of the SEVS Team, and myself, we would like to thank you all for being an integral part of our journey and allowing us to be a part of yours. And I'm very excited to see what the next 10 years brings us. - Danica

# Saying Goodbye to Dr Katy & Kayleigh and Welcoming New Staff

Dr Katy, who initially volunteered with SEVS as a pre-vet student, and later joined the SEVS team in the summer of 2020, has decided to return to Alberta with her husband to be closer to family in Banff at the end of March. Dr Katy has been a wonderful contribution to our team, bringing breadth and depth of knowledge, skill, and compassionate care to all of our clients and patients. Although we were all hoping she would stay indefinitely, we are happy she'll be closer to family, whom she's missed, particularly during these difficult times.

## A Message from Katy:

I would like to thank the extended Swiftsure family of clients and patients who welcomed me with open arms 2 years ago. It is hard for me to say goodbye to the warm island weather and people, but I wish you all nothing but the best going forward. If you are ever in the Calgary, AB area, don't hesitate to look me up!



Kayleigh has purchased her first home with her partner. Unfortunately, the house is in Comox. And although she was unable to enter the inflated real estate market here in Victoria, we are happy she's on to the next chapter of her life. She will be leaving at the end of April. Kayleigh has been an integral part in the SEVS operations for several years. Initially joining as a farm and office assistant, then taking over practice manager responsibilities during Jessie's maternity leave, then accepting the permanent position this past summer. Again, we were hoping she would stay indefinitely.



## A Message from Kayleigh:

It has been such a great experience working with Dr. Danica and the SEVS team over the last 3 years! I've learned so many valuable skills that have greatly expanded my knowledge in horsemanship and horse care. I'm going to miss the team, our awesome clients and their equine companions, but I hope to see everyone out & about at local horse shows!

With these big transitions, there will be some new faces in the SEVS Team in 2022. Dr. Reina Fennell, a WCVN graduate, Haida Gwaii resident and world traveller, will be joining us in September. We are excited to welcome her to the SEVS family.

Marnie recently has joined us in reception. In her spare time, she can be found spending time with her two horses, Creeks and Cute, and spending time with her family and friends. You may have already had the opportunity to chat with her in the office over the last month.

Lena, who has been assisting on farm for 2.5 years, has accepted the Practice Manager position, on a permanent basis, after completing her Diploma in Business Administration and Bookkeeping Certificate.

Lastly, Lauren will be joining us on farm as a Veterinary Assistant. Lauren was born in Victoria and has surrounded herself with horses as much as possible since. She has many years of experience in both the horse industry & customer service and someday aspires to become a veterinarian herself. In her free time, Lauren can be found riding her horse Irish, and spending time with family and friends.

We appreciate your patience and understanding during this transition period. Please join us in welcoming these new team members and well wishes for those departing. Here's to an exciting 2022!



Marnie



Lauren