

Glanders



What happens if Glanders is confirmed

If Glanders is confirmed, the following measures will apply:

- Movement of equidae, their products, by-products and equipment used in connection with equidae to and from the holding will be restricted
- Movements of equidae to other EU Member States will be prohibited for 6 months after infected animals have been killed and destroyed.

The effect on trade with countries outside the EU will depend on the animal health requirements of the relevant country.

Measures that you can take to protect your animals

- Fully comply with legislation when importing animals
- Isolate imported animals
- Monitor your animals carefully
- If your animals are unwell, contact your private veterinary practitioner

In the event of an outbreak, further information will be provided on the Department of Agriculture's website at: www.agriculture.gov.ie

Information Leaflet for Horse Owners

www.agriculture.gov.ie



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Information on Glanders August 2011

Introduction

The purpose of this information leaflet is to increase industry awareness about Glanders. This is an infectious disease of equidae, caused by the bacterium *Burkholderia mallei*. Glanders can be transmitted to humans.

Geographical distribution of the disease

Historically, the disease was eradicated from North America, Australia and Europe. However it occurs sporadically in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and South America. The disease was notified for the first time in Bahrain in 2010 and the Lebanon in 2011. Glanders was last recorded in Ireland in 1920.

Affected species

Glanders mainly infects horses, mules and donkeys. Other species can also become infected e.g. dogs, cats.

Methods of transmission

The main method of transmission of Glanders is by direct contact with infected animals, their secretions, and through contact with contaminated equipment, feed, soil and water.

Public health risk

Glanders is a rare disease in humans. Cases have occurred in people working closely with horses. Infection occurs through direct contact with infected animals, their secretions, and through contact with contaminated equipment, food, soil and water. The symptoms of Glanders include fever, muscle aches, chest pain, muscle tightness, weakness and headache. Other symptoms depend on the route of infection. Cases can be treated with antibiotics. Fatalities can occur in untreated cases.

Clinical signs

The disease causes nodules and ulcerations in the nose and lungs. A skin form known as “farcy” also exists. Acute and chronic forms occur. Acute forms occur mostly in donkeys and mules. In horses the disease is generally more chronic. Asymptomatic carriers can also be found.

The most common clinical signs are:

- **Sticky, yellow discharge from the nose**
- **Progressive debility, cough, with or without diarrhoea**
- **Nodules on the skin, which may discharge yellow pus**
- **Wasting and death**

Possible routes of introduction

The main route by which Glanders could be introduced into Ireland would be by importing an infected animal.

What to do if you suspect disease

Glanders is a **notifiable** disease. Any suspicions of the disease must be reported immediately to the local District Veterinary Office (see list of local offices under “Contact Us” on the Department of Agriculture’s website at: www.agriculture.gov.ie). Horse owners should familiarise themselves with the clinical signs of the disease. In the event of suspicion, equidae must not be moved to or from the premises until sample results have ruled out the disease. The movement of equine carcasses, animal products, semen, ova, embryos, faeces, animal waste or equipment used in connection with animals to or from the premises may only take place under licence.