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## Comment from English, Aubrey

Posted by the **Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service** on Jan 20, 2026[Docket \(/docket/APHIS-2025-0538\)](#) / [Document \(APHIS-2025-0538-0001\) \(/document/APHIS-2025-0538-0001\)](#) / [Comment](#)

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As a current veterinary student focused on equine practice, I have a strong interest in assuring the continuation of policies that are beneficial to the industry I will soon be entering. Being a highly contagious virus with no current curative treatment, EIA should always be kept at the forefront of the industry's concerns. I fully support the continuation of the collection of information concerning equine communicable diseases.


Reviewing the data from the 2023 APHIS EIA annual report (attached), the importance of regulating interstate movement of EIA positive horses and of the continuation of approved lab testing for EIA is apparent. For example, to paraphrase the attached document, about 67% of documented EIA positive cases in 2023 were in former or current quarter horse racehorses (i.e., those more likely to travel across state lines during their racing career). Furthermore, these same horses were found to have been infected largely via iatrogenic means (through medical procedures). It goes to show how much interstate travel is contributing to the transmission of EIA and therefore how important the regulations are in the monitoring and control of EIA.

However, I would also like to call to attention the other side to this same set of data. Perhaps the relatively high level of iatrogenic transmission in these particular horses is in fact due to the these same interstate regulations that require regular exams (veterinary examinations, vaccinations, and disease testing such as a Coggin's) to enter races and cross state lines (exams which may be the iatrogenic source, or may at least contribute to the transmission of disease in these horses). This is not to contradict my earlier statement of support for this proposal, but is simply something that I felt might also be important when considering the continued regulations of interstate travel as it relates to, and may even contribute to, the iatrogenic spread of EIA (as could have been the case in these quarter horses in 2023). Whatever the case, it can be taken as just another reason for the continued collection of this data, so future studies can provide even more insight into the prevalence, prevention and control of the disease. In the end, this is just one example of how the continuation of these policies is of extreme importance, not only to current and future equine practitioners, but also to the equine industry as a whole. The collection of current data on EIA prevalence in the United States is something that

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must continue (under careful consideration of its effects on the spread of the disease itself) for the health and safety of its equine population, as well as the wellbeing and maintenance of every single person contributing to and involved in America's equine industry.

Attachments 1

 2023-eia-report

[Download \(https://downloads.regulations.gov/APHIS-2025-0538-0003/attachment\\_1.pdf\)](https://downloads.regulations.gov/APHIS-2025-0538-0003/attachment_1.pdf)

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