

Salmonellosis abortusequi

Salmonellosis is a disease of animals caused by the many species of the bacterium salmonellae. *Salmonella abortusequi* is a strain of salmonella specific to horses and donkeys that has been isolated in association with abortion in pregnant mares. *S. abortusequi* may also cause arthritis in foals and orchitis in stallions.

S. abortus equi has become a rare disease, apparently it only occurs in a few countries in America, Asia, Europe and Africa. It has never been reported in the Pacific Region.

Clinical Signs are:

In mares:

- Late abortion (7-8 months)
- Retention of placenta and metritis

In foals born from infected mother:

- Acute septicaemia in the first week of life,
- Polyarthritis 7 in the second week of life.

In stallions:

- Fever,
- Orchitis, with swelling in the prepuce and scrotum,
- Arthritis.
- Rarely it causes tendovaginitis, bursitis and pneumonia.

S. abortus equi is usually transmitted by ingestion of pasture or food contaminated by uterine discharges from carriers or recently aborted mares. *In utero* transmission is possible but does not have epidemiological importance.

Subclinical carriers are important in spreading the disease.

Stallions can also transmit the disease by insemination (natural and artificial).

S. abortusequi could be introduced by importation of live horses and infective semen from an endemically infected region.

Antibiotic treatments are efficient. Inactivated vaccines against *S. abortus equi* are available.



Late Abortion

Arthritis

