

Search for '**exotic equine**' found **1** articles

[Return to list](#) [New Search](#)

Vets warn of threat of exotic equine diseases

Published: 16/11/2007 (News) Howard Wright

EXOTIC equine diseases could soon be sitting on Britain's doorstep, threatening to seriously damage the thoroughbred racing and breeding industries, according to veterinary experts speaking at a seminar held at Cheltenham racecourse yesterday, writes Howard Wright. Animal Health Trust chief executive Peter Webbon, the former HRA veterinary adviser, warned: "I suspect these diseases are closer to home than we once thought. I don't want to spread alarm, but we do need to be aware of the potential, and to raise awareness of the need to be vigilant." Webbon himself dealt with equine infectious anaemia - EIA, but better known as swamp fever - which he said was largely unknown in Britain until it exploded on to the scene in 2006, when 28 cases were diagnosed in Ireland. He said: "It's no longer an exotic disease, it's all around us, and there may be carriers in Europe that we don't know about. The last case in Britain occurred in 1976, but it's only a matter of time before we see individual cases, if not an outbreak." Mosquitoes that feed on infected birds are the carriers of West Nile fever, which James Wood, from the department of veterinary medicine at Cambridge University, explained had been found in horses in France and Italy, with reactions varying from "feeling nothing to brain infection". Bluetongue is closely related to the virus African Horse Sickness, which is spread by the same species of midge. Although one horse cannot catch AHS directly from another, there is a 90 per cent mortality rate, with rapid death. For a full report, see racingpost.co.uk

[Return to list](#) [New Search](#)

Currently viewing match **1** of **1**