

What is HyPP?

- ◆ Hyperkalemic Periodic Paralysis (HyPP) is an inherited disease that leads to uncontrolled muscle twitching or profound muscle weakness, which can appear as muscle tremors, disorientation, or convulsions, and in some cases, may lead to collapse and/or death.
- ◆ Often times when horses experience HyPP they will actually sit like a dog - on their buttocks with front legs extended to hold them up and muscle tremors can be observed while the horse is in this stance.
- ◆ HyPP is listed as a genetic defect in the American Quarter Horse Association's (AQHA) rules, along with Parrot Mouth and Cryptorchidism.
- ◆ To date, HyPP has only been traced to descendants of IMPRESSIVE, AQHA registration # 0767246.
- ◆ Foals born in 1998 and later and tracing to IMPRESSIVE will have a statement placed on their Certificates of Registration that recommends testing for the condition unless test results indicating the foal is negative (N/N) are on file with AQHA.
- ◆ Beginning with the 2007 foals, all IMPRESSIVE progeny are required to be HyPP tested subject to the conditions of the AQHA rule 205. **Any that test H/H will NOT be eligible for registration.**
- ◆ Possible results of HyPP testing are N/N, N/H and H/H.
*****HyPP is inherited as a dominant trait, which means a heterozygous (N/H) stallion or mare bred to a normal (N/N) horse will result in approximately half of the offspring being affected and half being normal. The rare homozygote (H/H) usually is severely affected with the disease and will pass the gene to its offspring 100% of the time.
- ◆ HyPP can be treated through diet and medication in *some* cases; however, because it is a genetic defect there is not a cure.
*****Feeding diets rich in potassium, such as alfalfa or molasses can exacerbate the symptoms.
- ◆ AQHA testing kits can be ordered for \$40. Diagnosis of HyPP can only be made from the genetic test results.
- ◆ If your horse has HyPP or exhibits the symptoms of HyPP, please consult your veterinarian.

Written by: Lindsey Wiggins
Multi-County Livestock Agent (Hendry, Glades, Charlotte, Lee, and Collier)

