Fear of deadly virus has horse owners sticking close to home Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 26 May 2011 19:54 -Horse under quarantine in Dawson County. Trail rides in the area have been cancelled or postponed as have events at the roping grounds north of town. Horse owners are worried about a deadly and highly contagious equine herpes virus that has exposed and/or infected horses in 13 states. Officials say at least seven horses have died or were euthanized which has led to the cancellation of many events involving horses across the nation. The outbreak of the virus has been traced to an event in Ogden, UT, on May 8 to which horses from Nebraska—including some from Dawson County—competed. Although state animal epidemiologist Roger Dudley of Gothenburg said there are no known

Dudley said one is in Scottsbluff and several in Saline County.

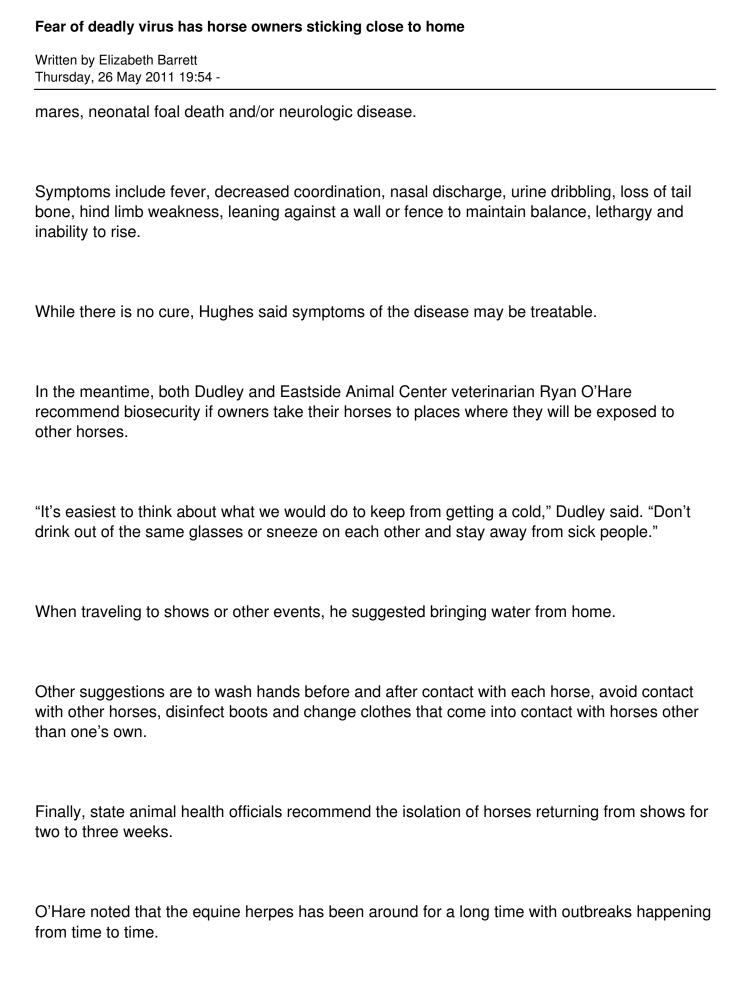
quarantined by the state veterinarian until this Sunday.

If the animals don't show symptoms of the disease by the end of the quarantine period, he said they will be released.

cases in Nebraska, horses in three areas—including one in Dawson County—have been

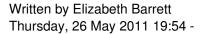
The incubation period for the virus, Dudley said, is about six days.

State veterinarian Dennis Hughes said the virus can cause respiratory disease, abortion in



"Usually the animal is stressed," he said.

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He said his clinic has received calls from a few horse owners with questions about the virus, adding that he doesn't know of any clients at the moment with horses showing symptoms of the disease.

The horses were infected at the National Cutting Horse Association's Western National Championships in Ogden.

Thirty-three confirmed cases have been reported in eight states—California, Colorado, Idaho, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, Utah and Washington.

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