

IN CONFIDENCESUSPECT BSE IN A HORSE

The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Maclean) will wish to be aware that, in making his differential diagnosis, a veterinary surgeon in the Reading area has included the possibility of BSE in a horse under his care. Although it is unlikely to be BSE, because of the symptoms exhibited the veterinarian believes that he cannot exclude the possibility. The case was brought to the notice of one of the veterinary staff at the CVL by the owner's veterinary surgeon and liaison is being maintained.

The horse in question is a five-year old eventing gelding which was purchased by the present owner about four months ago. Approximately two months after purchase the animal became a little apprehensive, developed mild nervous symptoms and became over-sensitive to noise. The nervous symptoms have increased and the horse is now practically impossible to ride. Investigations by the owner's private veterinary surgeon are continuing but it is likely that the animal will have to be destroyed.

If the horse should die or be destroyed, a full post-mortem examination will be required for insurance purposes and will probably be carried out at a non-Ministry laboratory. However, Mr Bradley of the Pathology Department, CVL, has informed the private veterinary surgeon that he is willing to provide a second opinion on the brain histology if requested.

I will keep the Parliamentary Secretary informed of any further developments in the case.

I CRAWFORD
14 May 1990

Mr M P H Hill, PS/Parliamentary Secretary
(Mr Maclean) - by FAX

cc: Private Offices - by FAX
Mr K C Meldrum
Mrs E A J Attridge - by FAX
Mr D J Evans
Mr K C Taylor
Mr R Lawson
Mr R Bradley, CVL

90/05.14/10.1

The Parliamentary Secretary (Mr Maclean) was grateful for this. He said that we must keep very close to on it, and when the horse dies, or is put down we must be held immediate. He also feels it is very important that our veterinary staff are involved in the brain examination. (606)