**HYPP**

**Hyperkalemic periodic paralysis** is an inherited autosomal dominant muscle disease that affects the sodium channels in the horse's muscle and the potassium levels in the blood and has been traced to the stallion, **IMPRESSIVE**. The disease causes sporadic attacks of muscle contractions and convulsions. These range from mild episodes of involuntary muscle twitching, to a full body collapse and death. Changes in feed/supplements, environment, or stress can trigger an HYPP attack. **Horses with a single dominant gene WILL EXPRESS the disorder (at some point) AND can pass it to their offspring 50% of the time. Horses with two dominant genes will always produce afflicted offspring.**

**Lethal:**

– YES. Horses can die from HYPP, they can suffocate from the inability to breathe during an attack. Even normally non-symptomatic horses can die from their first and only HYPP attack. HYPP attacks can harm and/or kill humans around the animal while it is having an attack, and/or while riding an HYPP affected horse as an attack occurs. Only experienced individuals and vets should approach an HYPP seizing horse to treat it.

**Inheritance:**

– Simple DOMINANT. If a horse has at least 1 copy (heterozygous) of HYPP are affected with the disorder. Homozygous HYPP horses (2 copies) often suffer more severely than those who are heterozygous.

**Affected breeds:**

– Quarter Horses, Appaloosas, Paints and cross breeds descending from the Quarter Horse stallion, **IMPRESSIVE**, who was likely the origin of the HYPP mutation.

**Statistics:**

– HYPP is present in approximately 4% of Quarter Horses and approximately 40% of halter horses. The statistics of variant HYPP is currently unknown.

**Available Tests:**

– YES direct test. There are variants of HYPP that do not show up on a traditional HYPP test. A horse may test negative for HYPP and still have symptoms. Variants are currently being researched.

**Treatment:**

– Can often be better managed with special diet (only 0.6–1.5% potassium) and/or medication. Consult a vet.

**Prevention:**

– The only way to prevent foals born with HYPP is to not breed HYPP individuals.

**Links:**

[http://www.horsetesting.com/HYPP.htm](http://www.horsetesting.com/HYPP.htm)

Summary and format from: