



Ernie Morales
Chairman

Dee B. Ellis, D.V.M., M.P.A.
Executive Director

**ORDER DESIGNATING BROOKS COUNTY AS A HIGH RISK COUNTY
FOR PIROPLASMOSIS AND TO TEST ALL EQUINE**

WHEREAS, equine Piroplasmosis (Piroplasmosis) is a disease of horses and other equine caused by the protozoa *Theileria equi* or *Babesia caballi*. A number of tick species are capable of transmitting the disease. At least one species, *Amblyomma cajennense*, is endemic to South Texas. Equine Piroplasmosis is considered a foreign animal disease in the United States, and;

WHEREAS, establishment of a high risk area and subsequent testing of resident equine can determine the disease status of equine in the area, and help assure the Texas equine population is free of Piroplasmosis, and;

WHEREAS, high risk areas were established for Kleberg and Kenedy counties where subsequent testing of resident equine found 28 equine tested positive and were diagnosed with Piroplasmosis in those counties, and;

WHEREAS, Brooks County, being adjacent to Kleberg and Kenedy counties, is considered to be at high risk, and;

WHEREAS, Texas Agriculture Code §161.054 provides as a control measure, that the Commission may restrict the intrastate movement of animals even though the movement of the animals is unrestricted in interstate or international commerce. The Commission may require testing, vaccination, or another epidemiologically sound procedure before or after animals are moved, and;

WHEREAS, Texas Agriculture Code §161.057 provides the Commission by rule may prescribe criteria for classifying areas in the state for disease control and may prescribe different control measures and procedures for areas with different classifications, and;

WHEREAS, the Commission adopted a rule found in Title 4 of the Texas Administrative Code §49.6 and entitled "Piroplasmosis: Area or County Test", that authorizes the Executive Director of the Commission to issue an order for equine to be tested in a high risk area or county based on sound epidemiological principles for disease detection, control, and eradication, and;

WHEREAS, based on sound epidemiological principles for disease detection, control, and eradication, which includes the presence of disease vectors (ticks), multiple positive animals in the area, and common husbandry and animal use practices, Brooks County is designated as a high risk area for Equine Piroplasmosis.

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NOW, THEREFORE, the Executive Director of the Commission is hereby issuing an order designating Brooks County as a high risk area for Equine Piroplasmiasis and that all equine located in the County are required to be tested by Commission personnel.

FURTHERMORE, if an equine is not tested it will be restricted by the Commission to a premise and it will be necessary for Commission personnel to issue a movement certificate or permit prior to the equine being moved.

This Order will remain in effect until modified, amended or rescinded.



Dee Ellis, D.V.M.
Executive Director
Texas Animal Health Commission

Date