



## Emerging and Reemerging Infectious Diseases, Region of the Americas

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### **Equine Encephalitis in Venezuela**

In the municipality of Arismendi, State of Barinas, two outbreaks of Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) have been detected beginning at the end of September.

In one of the ranches, with a susceptible population of 15 animals, 2 horses died showing a clinical profile fully compatible with encephalitis. The results of the Hemoagglutination Inhibition (HI) test carried out on the 13 remaining animals indicated the presence of one animal with high titers for EEE. In the second ranch, 3 animals died out of a total of 9, and the results of the HI test pointed to one animal with high titers for both EEE and VEE.

The health authorities (as well as the agricultural authorities) decided to send a technical team to the affected area to carry out an epidemiological tracing. In addition, the movement of animals has been restricted and vaccination of the susceptible population is being carried out. The difficulties to access to the affected area impinge on the implementation of the activities.

*Source:* Epidemiological report to the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) by the Ministry of Health of Venezuela.