

Neospora & Equine Pregnancy

The parasite *Neospora caninum* may be linked to equine abortions. An OVC study (2022) demonstrated that exposure to *Neospora* parasites (close to 30% seroprevalence) is widespread among Ontario broodmares

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Risk factors identified for exposure to *N. caninum* are similar to that seen for cattle, including presence of farm dogs and high stocking density.

These findings are consistent with the known life cycle for *N. caninum*, where canines are definitive hosts, shedding parasite oocysts in their feces. Diligence is required in cleaning up after farm dogs and rodent control. Feeding hay up from off the ground is recommended.

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Risk of exposure to *Neospora hughesi* was lower on farms with other livestock. This may reflect better biosecurity practices on those farms...

...or the impact of grazing practices of other livestock species to reduce environmental load of parasites contaminating pastures.

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Additional research is needed to determine the life cycle of *Neospora hughesi*