Early diagnosis and treatment will improve a horse's chance of recovery.

It's important to seek veterinary attention as soon as possible if a horse shows symptoms of respiratory disease, such as coughing, difficulty breathing, or labored breathing. These symptoms might indicate pleuropneumonia, a serious problem that requires prompt treatment, such as a bacterial infection (often referred to as "shipping fever").

Treatment

The exact treatment a veterinarian prescribes will, of course, depend on the diagnosis. However, there are several general things veterinarians should remember when treating horses with post-transport fever.

1. Supportive care
   - **Inhalation therapy**: This involves the administration of medications directly into the lungs to alleviate respiratory distress and remove irritants.
   - **Ultrasound**: This diagnostic tool is used to visualize the lungs and pleural space, helping to identify effusions or other abnormalities.
   - **Endoscopy**: This procedure allows veterinarians to examine the respiratory tract directly, which can be particularly useful in cases of pleuropneumonia.

2. Antimicrobial therapy
   - Broad-spectrum antimicrobial therapy should be initiated empirically prior to any pending diagnostic tests. This means choosing antibiotics that cover a wide range of potential pathogens until the specific cause of the infection is identified.

3. Monitoring and follow-up
   - Close monitoring of horses both prior to and after transportation is key to preventing the development of severe disease. Owners should be alert for any signs of respiratory distress and seek veterinary attention if they do.

4. Prevention
   - Owners should not transport horses that are sick or have a fever, unless they're going to receive veterinary care. Additionally, after a horse arrives at his destination, she recommended owners monitor their horse for signs of respiratory illness and seek veterinary attention if necessary.

5. Embryo Transfer
   - Equine Reproduction, Embryo Recovery, Embryo Transfer (ERS) is the longest, continually in existence. Imogen Johns, BVSc, Dipl. ACVIM, MRCVS, reviewed the diagnosis, treatment, and management of transportation pneumonia.

   - "Close monitoring of horses both prior to and after transportation is key to preventing the development of severe disease," Johns said. From trips across the state to flights around the world, today's horses are regular globetrotters. And while most horses arrive at their destinations happy and healthy, some will arrive with some unwelcome baggage: a fever.

   - "Although one study has suggested that enrofloxacin may be efficacious in preventing post-transportation pneumonia, prophylactic antimicrobials are not recommended due to the possibility of adverse effects on the gastrointestinal tract and the development of antimicrobial resistance," Johns said. The exact treatment a veterinarian prescribes will, of course, depend on the diagnosis. However, there are several general things veterinarians should remember when treating horses with post-transport fever.

   - "Medication history available for one of these studies suggests that the majority of these horses recovered without antimicrobial treatment, suggesting that the fever was a transient (short - lived) event," she said.