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"Breeder's Invitational Cancelled Until 2012"

May 18, 2011. Tulsa, OK. In a unanimous decision, the Breeder's Invitational (BI) Board of Directors permanently cancelled its 2011 event in the wake of the outbreak of EHV1. Earlier in the week, the show was postponed after confirmed cases of EHV1 were reported in horses that had attended the National Cutting Horse Association's Western Nationals in Ogden, Utah. BI Officials were concerned the congregation of the large number of entries expected at the 2011 Breeder's Invitational event had the potential of further spreading this dangerous virus.

"We did not feel comfortable with the potential of exposing horses arriving in Tulsa to EHV," said BI Board Chairman, Jeffrey Matthews. "An outbreak at an event of this size could be devastating. The Board of Directors decided to take a conservative approach to the situation in the interest of protecting the health of the horses."

Today, the decision was made by the Board of Directors to permanently cancel this year's event, instead of rescheduling it to a later date this calendar year. "There is no date available in 2011 at the Expo Square that we could make work," reported Bob O'Bannon, BI Executive Director. "And the Board was in complete agreement that they did not want to hold the event anywhere else."

Matthews elaborated on the decision: "We have a contract with the City of Tulsa and we value that contract and our relationship with Tulsa. In the very near future, we intend to announce our plans with regard to the refund of 2011 entry fees and the reallocation of this year's purse money, which will go toward making next year's event even stronger."