

The UEA Bulletin

U N I O N V I L L E E Q U I N E A S S O C I A T E S , P . C .

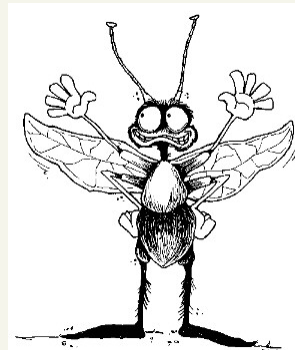
10 Tips for Reducing your Horse's West Nile Risk

Since first being recognized in the United States in 1999, West Nile virus (WNV) has posed a serious threat to horses and humans alike. In the equine population, the virus is transmitted when a mosquito takes a blood meal from a bird infected with WNV, then feeds on a horse. While many horses exposed to WNV experience no signs of illness, the virus can cause inflammation of the brain and spinal cord. In some cases, especially in older horses, WNV can be fatal.

As a horse owner, prevention is the key to reducing your horse's risk of contracting WNV. Follow these guidelines from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) to protect your horse against WNV:

1. Consider vaccinating your horse against the disease. In February 2003, a vaccine was licensed by the United States Department of Agriculture's Center for Veterinary Biologics for use in healthy horses as an aid in the prevention of the disease. Talk with your veterinarian about the most appropriate vaccination schedule for your horse.
2. Eliminate potential mosquito breeding sites. Dispose of old receptacles, tires and containers and eliminate areas of standing water.
3. Thoroughly clean livestock watering troughs at least monthly.
4. Use larvicides to control mosquito populations when it is not possible to eliminate particular breeding sites. Such action should only be taken, however, in consultation with your local mosquito control authority.
5. Keep your horse indoors during the peak mosquito activity periods of dusk to dawn.
6. Screen stalls if possible or at least install fans over your horse to help deter mosquitoes.
7. Avoid turning on lights inside the stable during the evening or overnight.
8. Using insect repellants on your horse that are designed to repel mosquitoes can help reduce the chance of being bitten.
9. Remove any birds, including chickens, located in or close to a stable.
10. Don't forget to protect yourself as well. When outdoors in the evening, wear clothing that covers your skin and apply plenty of mosquito repellent.

For more information about the virus, ask your equine veterinarian for the "West Nile Virus" brochure, produced by the AAEP in conjunction with Bayer Animal Health, an AAEP Educational Partner. Additional information about WNV can be found on the AAEP's horse-health Web site, www.myHorseMatters.com.



Important UEA Special Events

2nd Annual Castration Day October 7, 2008

Do you have a young colt that needs to be castrated? If so schedule an appointment for our castration day. The castration must be done at our clinic, on October 7th and must be paid for at the time of service. The discounted Castration Day fee is \$200.00 which includes sedation and a Tetanus vaccination.

Gastroscopy Day October 23, 2008

Sign up for Gastroscopy Day on October 23rd. Back by popular demand UEA is sponsoring a second Gastroscopy Day. The procedure will be offered at half price so don't miss out on this great opportunity to diagnose if your horse has stomach ulcers.

Dental Day November 20, 2008

Join us at UEA on November 20th for our 1st Annual Dental Day. Our veterinarians will be offering basic dental care and teeth floating at a discounted price of \$65.00.

September is Fecal Month

All fecal exams done during the month of September will be at the discounted price of \$10.00 per exam. The specimen must be provided ten days after worming. Make sure to indicate which worming product was used when submitting sample.

Appointments must be made in advance and payment is due at the time of service. Regular prices will apply to any additional services provided.

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