

**Sent:** Thursday, June 13, 2013 4:08 PM

**Subject:** STATE VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE - Rabies Positive Horse

2nd rabies-positive horse diagnosed in Weld County

Date: June 13th, 2013

On June 13th, 2013, CSU Diagnostic Lab confirmatory tests revealed that another horse from Weld County was rabies-positive. This is the second horse diagnosed with rabies in the last week. Although both cases were located in Weld County, they were from two separate premises.

The owners of the horse brought the horse to a veterinary clinic due to anorexia and colic, progressing quickly to clinical signs of stumbling, muscle tremors around the face and neck, and eventually the inability to stand. The attending veterinarian euthanized the horse and the CSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory performed the testing that confirmed the horse was rabid.

A federal field veterinarian has performed an investigation and examined the other horses on the premises. The remaining horses will be vaccinated for rabies and placed under movement restrictions and observation for the next 6 months. Weld County public health officials are working closely with those involved in the case for appropriate rabies prophylaxis.

This additional case of rabies in a horse again highlights the importance of including rabies on the differential diagnosis list when any neurological clinical signs are noted and to continue to inform and recommend to owners that their animals be vaccinated for rabies. This includes horses, small ruminants, llamas, alpacas, petting zoo animals, and possibly other valuable livestock. Many rabies cases that involve livestock result in numerous people having to take post-exposure prophylaxis. Considering the current incidence of wildlife rabies in Colorado, the benefits of vaccinating certainly outweigh any potential reasons for not vaccinating against rabies.

For statistics and other epidemiological information on confirmed rabies cases in Colorado please to the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment's webpage at:

[www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rabies](http://www.colorado.gov/cdphe/rabies)