

Sent: Saturday, July 19, 2014 9:47 AM

Subject: STATE VETERINARIAN'S OFFICE - WNV and VS Update

Colorado Horse Diagnosed with West Nile Virus (WNV):

West Nile Virus (WNV) has been diagnosed in Colorado as of July 18, 2014. This case was diagnosed by Colorado State University Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory (CSUVDL) in Fort Collins and represents the first reported equine case of West Nile Virus in Colorado this year. The WNV positive horse resides in Adams County, Colorado.

The transmission of the disease varies from year to year and depends on a number of factors, including mosquito numbers. The West Nile virus can be carried by infected birds and then spread locally by mosquitoes that bite those birds. The mosquitoes can then pass the virus to humans or animals.

Infected horses may display symptoms including head tilt, muscle tremors, stumbling, lack of coordination, weakness of the limbs or partial paralysis. If horses exhibit clinical signs consistent with WNV, it is very important for horse owners to contact their veterinarian in order to confirm the diagnosis through laboratory testing.

Horse owners should consult their private practicing veterinarian to determine an appropriate prevention strategy for their horses.

Vaccines have proven to be a very effective prevention tool. Horses that have been vaccinated in past years will need an annual booster shot. However, if an owner did not vaccinate their animal in previous years, the horse will need the two-shot vaccination series within a three to six week period.

In addition to vaccinations, horse owners also need to reduce the mosquito populations and their possible breeding areas. Recommendations include removing stagnant water sources, keeping animals inside during the bugs' feeding times, which are typically early in the morning and evening, and using mosquito repellents.

Colorado Vesicular Stomatitis (VS) Update:

A third Colorado premises has a confirmed diagnosis of vesicular stomatitis. The premises is located in Boulder county and has been placed under quarantine.

Strict fly control is an important factor to inhibit the transmission of VS. Although the insect vectors for transmission of WNV and VS in horses are different, one of the most important disease prevention practices for both diseases is insect control for both the premises and the individual animals.

Colorado veterinarians and livestock owners should contact the state of destination when moving livestock interstate to ensure that all import requirements are met. A list of contact information

for all state veterinarians' offices is available at www.colorado.gov/ag/animals and click on "Import Requirements."

Colorado fairs, livestock exhibitions, and rodeos may institute new entry requirements based on the extent and severity of the current VS outbreak. Certificates of Veterinary Inspection issued within 2-5 days prior to an event can be beneficial to reduce risks. Be sure to stay informed of any new livestock event requirements.

If moving livestock internationally please contact the USDA APHIS VS Colorado office at 303-231-5385 to determine if there are any movement restrictions or testing requirements for VSV.

For additional information, contact the Colorado State Veterinarian's Office at 303-869-9130 or the Colorado Department of Agriculture website at www.colorado.gov/ag to view important updates and information.