

M A R C H 2 0 1 0

The

Equine Clinic

Spring Vaccination Alert!



Although rare, Rabies has been discovered in numerous horses in the southeast. The Rabies virus attacks the peripheral nervous system and has a mortality rate of 100%. This virus may be transmitted from horse to human. All individuals exposed to a horse that has contracted rabies must undergo a series of several injections. Spring opens the door for horse shows all over the country. The increase of shows creates a heavy migration of horses. Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis are viral diseases transmitted from one horse to another. Even if the horse is not traveling it is still important to vaccinate as a precautionary measure. One irresponsible horse owner can cause inconvenience, grief, and unnecessary costs to other horsemen.

Fact: The Southeast has the largest number of reported cases of Encephalomyelitis and West Nile. These viruses can reach a 90% mortality rate. Close to 100% of the horses that show severe neurological signs due to Encephalomyelitis and West Nile are humanely euthanized.

Ride Responsibly, Vaccinate!

It's that time of season again when we ask our clients to vaccinate their horses against life threatening viruses and diseases. The importance of these vaccinations should be taken seriously, as serious as the vaccination of a child. As a responsible horse owner it is your obligation to make sure your equine friend is healthy and risk free. In the spring it is important that your horse be vaccinated against the following viruses:

- West Nile
- Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis
- Influenza
- Rhinopneumonitis
- Rabies

Spring is an inviting time of year for birds and mosquitoes. Birds are carriers of West Nile and Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis. The culprit of the cycle is the mosquito. The mosquito bites the infected bird then proceeds to bite the horse, thus transmitting the virus. The increase in the bird and mosquito population equals an increase in the risk of contracting viruses. These viruses attack the brain and the spinal cord.

Routine vaccinations are important to the health of your horses, as well as your neighbor's horses. Be responsible, vaccinate!

Visit us at www.EquineClinic.com