



VET NOTES

Previous VET NOTES

- September 2006 - Gastroscopy
- August 2006 - Rhodococcal pneumonia
- July 2006 - Managing limb deformities in foal with dynasplints
- June 2006 - Disaster preparedness
- May 2006 - Mare reproductive loss syndrome (MRLS)
- April 2006 - Exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage
- March 2006 - The use of high speed treadmill to diagnose upper respiratory tract disorders
- February 2006 - Common medications used to assist breeding, cycle regulation and pregnancy maintenance of the mare
- January 2006 - Managing high risk pregnancies
- December 2005 - Affording the unhealthy horse
- November 2005 - Strangles
- October 2005 - The "dummy" foal
- September 2005 - New medications
- August 2005 - Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT)
- July 2005 - Vaccination recommendations
- June 2005 - The advantages of high fat/low carbohydrate diets for horses

October 2006

Eastern Equine Encephalitis - Time to Vaccinate!!

Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus is a mosquito borne virus that is endemic in the eastern United States. The virus is carried by birds primarily and spread to horses and humans through mosquito bites. The incidence of mosquitoes and therefore infection rate is increased most years during the late summer months and into the fall in central Florida.

Horses that are infected with EEE show signs of unsteadiness, fever, depression or erratic behavior, and a marked loss of coordination and/or weakness. Treatment is limited to supportive care and many horses will die or are euthanized 48-72 hours after the initial signs. The mortality rate in horses has been reported to be at least 90%.

The immunity obtained through vaccination begins to decrease after 4-6 months, and many horses will have inadequate protection after 6 months. Horses that have not been vaccinated in the last 4 months should receive a booster at this time. Research by vaccine producers and universities in endemic areas suggest vaccination for EEE every 4-6 months to ensure adequate protection for this deadly disease. Timing vaccination in adult horses in the spring and fall may offer the best protection.

TIME TO VACCINATE!!

Contact your veterinarian for more information on EEE and other necessary vaccinations – or pick up a vaccination schedule at the hospital.

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Horses less than 2 years of age seem to be at an increased risk of vaccine failure. This may be due to prolonged maternal antibody interference in some horses. In other words, the antibodies a foal received from its dam may not allow the foal to respond adequately to the initial vaccination(s). Therefore, a longer "series" of booster shots is recommended for weanlings. Begin vaccinating the foal at 4 months, booster at 5, 6 and 9 months and then every 4 months until 2 years of age. Once well vaccinated, adult horses can be protected with vaccinations every 4-6 months.

Another group of horses at increased risk are adult horses recently imported to the southeast from the west or Europe (places where the disease is not endemic). These horses need to be vaccinated immediately and boosted within 3-5 weeks. Continuing boosters every 4 months for the first year is also recommended for these horses.

- May 2005 - The Hoof: Form and function
- March 2005 - Liquid gold
- February 2005 - Breeding the problem mare
- January 2005 - Condylar fractures
- December 2004 - Early diagnosis and treatment of high-risk pregnancy in the mare
- November 2004 - Know your horse
- October 2004 - White Line Disease
- September 2004 - Announcements
- August 2004 - Reminders for pregnant mare management
- July 2004 - The heat is on
- June 2004 - Equine first aid

2006 PETERSON & SMITH HORSEMAN'S SEMINAR

The third Peterson & Smith horseman's seminar will be held on November 18 & 19, 2006. Watch out for more information in the coming months.

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