

# HAYES EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

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## October 2018 Newsletter

### WEST NILE IS BACK

SAD TO SAY BUT WEST NILE IS BACK!!

I have seen 2 cases of West Nile in horses the last 2 weeks. After consulting with the Texas Veterinary Diagnostic Lab, they told us that there is a West Nile and Eastern Encephalitis outbreak in Texas. We have not seen a case in 5 years. If you have not vaccinated your horse for West Nile, we recommend that you do so. If you vaccinated in the spring, your horse should be protected. If you vaccinated in January or February, you need a booster. For foals, it's time to start them on their EWT/West Nile vaccinations with a booster in 3-4 weeks.

The signs for West Nile are a weakness or wobbling of the hind end, trouble backing up, down and can't get up, muscle twitching of the face, hypersensitivity or nervousness, and fever the first day. The West Nile virus causes an inflammation of the spinal cord which causes the hind end ataxia. If it is not treated with anti-inflammatory drugs the first or second day, the horse loses control of the hind end and goes down. 1/3 of these horses are unable to get up even with treatment and beat themselves up trying resulting in euthanasia.

West Nile is carried by the birds (Canadian geese) which are migrating south so we see it in September. The mosquito bites the bird, picks up the West Nile virus and then bites you or the horse transmitting the virus. The virus does not pass from horse to horse.

### OCTOBER TEETH SPECIAL

Tuesdays and Wednesdays in October, we are having our in the clinic teeth special. The Floating, Tranquilizer and Bute all for \$100 (a savings of \$30). Call today for an appointment!

### FREE CUSHING'S TESTING IN OCTOBER

Boehringer Ingelheim who makes Prascend the pill for horses with Cushing's is offering testing for 3 horses that may have Cushing at no charge for the test and shipping (a savings of \$100). If you would like to get your suspect horse tested, call the office.

Castration signs are Oct 12<sup>th</sup> thru the Oct 21.