

Fall 2004 Comstock Health Chronicle

West Nile

As most of you already know, Nevada is no longer a West Nile virus free state. The virus has been found in mosquitoes, birds, horses, and people.

Luckily for horses and their owners, there are two equine vaccines, both of which have been shown to be highly effective in preventing the disease. In order for a horse to be protected, it must receive a series of two vaccinations administered 3-6 weeks apart then yearly boosters (4-6 weeks apart for the Merial vaccine). In a horse that has never been vaccinated against the West Nile virus, full protection is not achieved until about 2 weeks after the horse receives its second vaccination in the series of two. Although both vaccines have been shown to provide protection for over a year, it is recommended that the vaccine be administered in the spring before the mosquito season begins.

The majority of our clients have already vaccinated their horses against the West Nile virus.

We strongly recommend that any unvaccinated horse begin the series of two vaccines as soon as possible. Please feel free to call our clinic if you are unsure about the vaccination status of your horses.

For more information on the West Nile virus you can reference the Fall 2002 newsletter on our website, www.comstockequine.com.

Did You Know?

A single horse's manure pile can yield over 27,000 immature flies per day. Source: Arthropod Pests of Horses. USDA website (www.usda.gov).

Construction Blues

Our construction project adventure continues. We are still in the midst of the "joys" of architecture, engineering, and most fun of all, administrative/construction permits. We have found from past experience that we should not name a ground breaking date as it seems to be bad luck as another snag invariably pops up to push that date back. We are close, however, very close. Watch for progress.....

Fly Control

An equation all too familiar to all horse owners is that horses plus summer equals flies. A new product is now available to help in the fight against these annoying pests. **Serene Feed-Through Fly Control** is an organophosphate-free feed additive that prevents immature flies from developing in horse manure by inhibiting the formation of the insect's exoskeleton. Because it is organophosphate-free and specifically targets the development of house and stable flies, Serene does not harm animals or beneficial insects.

For more information you can call 1-800-208-2270 or visit their website at www.sereneflycontrol.com. Use Vet ID #v35f2 when purchasing.

Welcome!

We are pleased to introduce our new associate, Dr. Alex Turner. Dr. Turner is a Colorado native and a 2002 graduate of Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine. He practiced in Texas at Weatherford Equine Medical Center until April of this year when he joined our practice. Please help us welcome Dr. Turner to Comstock Large Animal Hospital and the Reno area.

Consent Forms

Consent and authorization forms are available at our office. You should fill out a form if at anytime you will be unavailable to make immediate decisions regarding the treatment of your horse, whether routine care or emergency treatment. The form gives authorization for a designated person, usually a stable manager, trainer, or caretaker, to make these important decisions and gives us permission to treat your horse based on that person's decisions. A form should be on file with our clinic not only if you are going to be out of town, but also if your horse is at boarding facility and you would like the stable manager or trainer to make decisions regarding routine health care such as vaccinations, dewormings, dental care, and sheath cleanings. **Consent forms MUST be on file with our clinic if your horse is at a boarding or training facility and you would like your horse taken care of during a vaccination clinic and you will not be available at that time.**

Be sure that you have thoroughly discussed with your authorized person what normal health maintenance you want for your horse and how you would like to handle all emergencies from a simple laceration to a potential colic surgery.