

***Working for Healthy People and
Healthy Communities***



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Protecting Your Horses from West Nile Virus

***Important Information
for Horse Owners,
Managers & Trainers***



Featuring the latest information from the NJ Department of Agriculture.

West Nile Virus can pose a serious health threat to horses. Protect your horses from this illness by following these simple steps.

Understanding West Nile Virus

West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne illness first identified in the United States in 1999. Mosquitoes can transmit the virus from infected birds to humans, horses or other animals. Infected horses cannot directly spread West Nile Virus, but they can suffer damage to the central nervous system and may even die from the disease.

Eliminating Mosquito Habitats

The key to protecting your horses from West Nile Virus is to prevent mosquito bites. The best way to do this is to minimize the number of mosquito breeding habitats on your property. Mosquitoes thrive in places like these:

Water troughs	Water/feed buckets
Stagnant ponds	Wash stall drains
Clogged gutters	Discarded tires
Unused pools	Unwashed birdbaths

Remember, fly sheets, masks, repellents and bug zappers are not effective, long-term solutions for eliminating mosquitoes. However, the following tips will help you eliminate mosquito breeding areas and protect your horses from West Nile Virus:

- Keep buckets, basins, gutters, drains and pools clean and free of debris.

- Turn over wheelbarrows, wading pools and other equipment that could collect water.
- Drill holes in the bottom of outdoor containers that cannot be discarded.
- Clean and maintain swimming pools regularly.
- Use landscaping to eliminate standing water.

Keeping Your Horses Healthy

Talk with your veterinarian about the possibility of vaccinating your horses against West Nile Virus. Also, remember to call your veterinarian if your horses exhibit any of these symptoms:

Anorexia	Depression
Impaired vision	Aimless wandering
Convulsions	Inability to swallow
Circling	Hyper-excitability
Head pressing	Weak hind limbs
Droopy lip	Paralysis
Ataxia (difficulty moving or standing)	

To learn more about preventing West Nile Virus, contact the Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control at 645-5948. In addition to providing detailed information, these experts can visit your property to give you personalized, practical solutions for minimizing mosquitoes.

More information is available from the Atlantic County Division of Public Health at 609-645-5971 or on the internet at www.aclink.org/publichealth and from the Atlantic County Office of Mosquito Control at 609-645-5948 or on the internet at www.aclink.org/publicworks/mosquito.