



Quality and Concern in Equine Practice  
Serving Colorado Springs and Southern Colorado

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### Colorado Equine Veterinary Services

*A full-service, equine wellness, critical care and ambulatory practice.*

- ♦ General Medical
- ♦ Preventive Medicine
- ♦ Diagnostic Exams
- ♦ Reproductive
- ♦ Minor Surgery
- ♦ Lameness Exams
- ♦ Complementary Medicine

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## Controlling Communicable Diseases!

Vaccines work by exposing the horse's immune system to a part of a pathogen. This causes the horse's body to prepare a defense against the viruses. Not all vaccines will prevent a horse from becoming sick, but vaccinated horses will not become as ill as unvaccinated

**Vaccination can help your horse fight off diseases.**

horses. Depending on how a horse comes in contact with the disease, they need to be vaccinated one or more times a year.

### Encephalomyelitis - Sleeping Sickness

- **Causative agent** - Eastern, Western, and Venezuelan Encephalitis virus (Arboviruses - transmitted by blood sucking arthropods)
- **How exposed** - infected mosquitoes
- **Observable functioning** - unpredictable neurologic degeneration typically showing progressive depression/anorexia

to inactivity and death

- **Prognosis** - fair, some improve with treatment
- **Prevention** - biannual vaccination before the height of mosquito season

### West Nile Encephalitis

- **Causative agent** - West Nile virus
- **How exposed** - infected mosquitoes
- **Observable functioning** - unpredictable neurologic degeneration typically showing progressive depression, anorexia, idleness and death, some show characteristic facial tremors
- **Prognosis** - fair, some improve with treatment
- **Prevention** - biannual vaccination before the height of mosquito season

**No vaccine is 100% effective, but vaccinated horses will not become as ill as unvaccinated horses.**

## Controlling Communicable Diseases cont.

### Rhinopneumonitis

- **Causative agent** - EHV-1 and EHV-4 herpesvirus
- **How exposed** - respiratory secretions from infected animals
- **Observable functioning** - respiratory disease, rare neurologic disease, and late-term abortion
- **Prognosis** - good with treatment
- **Prevention** - vaccination with intranasal vaccine 2-6 times yearly depending on risk factors

### Influenza - Shipping Fever

- **Causative agent** – airborne agents
- **How exposed**- respiratory secretions from infected animals
- **Observable functioning** - yellow nasal discharge, coughing, pneumonia most often seen in stressed and young performance animals
- **Prognosis** - good with treatment, unless severe pneumonia develops

**Prevention** - vaccination with intranasal vaccine 2-6 times yearly depending on risk factors

### Streptococcus - Strangles

- **Causative agent** - Streptococcus bacteria
- **How exposed** - nasal secretions from infected or carrier animals, inhaled from the environment, neighboring horses, or handlers, VERY contagious, quarantine any showing signs
- **Observable functioning** – swollen abscess in lower jaw lymph nodes, nasal discharge, can progress to difficulty breathing, serious secondary conditions can occur

- **Prognosis** - many individuals become ill, most recover uneventfully with routine care (hot packing and draining abscesses, etc)
- **Prevention** - intranasal vaccine in at-risk horses, quarantining new arrivals to farms for 3-4 weeks

### Tetanus - Lock-jaw

- **Causative agent** – Clostridium – found in soils
- **How exposed** - wound contamination of bacterial spores in soil
- **Observable functioning** - neurologic degeneration affecting the brain causing variable dementia, aggression and death within 3-4 weeks
- **Prognosis** - grave, no known survivors
- **Prevention** - excellent vaccine with proven efficacy

### Rabies - Hydrophobia

- **Causative agent** – Rhabdovirus – any group of arbovirus including those causing rabies.
- **How exposed** - bites from infected animals, primarily bats, coyotes and dogs
- **Observable functioning**- neurologic degeneration affecting the brain causing variable dementia, aggression and death within 3-4 weeks
- **Prognosis** - grave, no known survivors
- **Prevention** - excellent vaccine with proven efficacy

## Controlling Communicable Diseases cont.

### Good management helps reduce the spread of disease.

- Group horses of similar uses. Show horses, yearlings, broodmares, riding horses, should not be commingled.
- Plan a traffic pattern to take farriers, and other personnel to at-risk horses (e.g., pregnant mares or mares and foals) first, and work toward horses that have multiple exposures to pathogens (show and trail riding horses).

**Good Management Combined with a Good Spring - Fall Wellness Program will help keep your horses healthy year round.**

- Isolate new horses, minimum of 14 days, ideally 21 days. Monitored for infectious diseases, complete vaccinations and deworming as necessary.
- Isolate horses returning from a hospital stay for 14 to 21 days.
- If a horse is sick (cough, runny nose/eyes, diarrhea, fever, etc.), isolate immediately. Utilize protective clothing when working with the animal. Disposable gloves, booties and coveralls.
- Stalls of sick horses should be mucked out last, using pitchforks, shovels, and other tools that are properly disinfected prior to their next use.

- Manure and bedding from stalls housing sick animals, including those experiencing abortions, should not be spread on fields. Compost away from all animals or check with your vet for recommendations.
- Provide running water, liquid hand soap, and disposable paper towels for hand-washing. Everyone should thoroughly wash their hands after working with sick animals, even if they were wearing disposable gloves.
- Rodent control is critical year-round! Mouse droppings contain enormous amounts of bacteria that can effectively spread infectious bacteria. Insect, bird, and bat control are also important.
- Clean and disinfect stalls, water buckets, grooming tools, pitchforks, and other items routinely, increase the frequency during an outbreak.
- Educate employees and enforce biosecurity procedures on the farm.

**A The Best Defense is an Effective Vaccination Program!**