

# Fall Equine Newsletter 2015

## WE'VE ALREADY SEEN MULTIPLE CASES OF POTOMAC HORSE FEVER THIS SUMMER

We have even seen some cases in vaccinated horses. We tend to see more cases in the fall than in the summer, so **it is important to booster!** Vaccinated horses have a much higher survival rate than non-vaccinated horses.

## Fall Vaccinations



It has been a hot summer and fall's cool fresh air is right around the corner!

However, the insects are still a problem even during the autumn months. Which means insect diseases are still being transmitted even as it starts to cool off outside.

Here at Muddy Creek Veterinary Service we

highly recommend fall boosters even if your horse or horses were vaccinated in the spring.

The fall boosters we suggest are:

- West Nile
- Potomac Horse Fever
- Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis

**Please call our office as soon as possible to schedule an appointment for your horses fall booster vaccines to help protect your horse from diseases transmitted by insects!**

## Equine Fecal Program Reminder...

Don't forget if your horse or horses are in the individualized parasite control program they may be due for a fecal reevaluation soon.

### Low Shedding horses

**Are due for a fecal recheck in September**

### High Shedding Horses

**Are due for a fecal recheck in October**

If you're not sure if your horse is a high or low shedder please give us a call and we'll be happy to let you know!

Or if your horse isn't in the program and you'd like them to be, give us a call or ask the veterinarian about the program during your fall vaccination appointment!

## Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis

### What is it?

Eastern Encephalomyelitis (EEE) and Western Encephalomyelitis (WEE) are viral diseases that affect the central nervous system and are transmitted by mosquitoes.

Also, may be known as "Sleeping Sickness" because the first signs are lethargy and depression

### Clinical Signs:

- Decreased Appetite
- Fever
- Altered mentation
- Impaired vision
- Aimless wandering
- Head pressing
- Circling
- Irregular ataxic gait
- Paresis
- Paralysis
- Convulsions

### Diagnosis:

- Clinical signs
- Blood testing
- Corpse's brain if deceased to differentiate other diseases

### Treatment:

- Antiinflammatory drugs
- Anticonvulsants if necessary
- Fluids if necessary
- Supportive care

## West Nile

### What is it?

West Nile is a virus transmitted by mosquitoes similar to Eastern Encephalomyelitis, but not as fatal.



### Clinical Signs:

- Neurological abnormalities
- Colic
- Lameness
- No Appetite
- Fever
- Depression
- Tremors of the face and neck muscles

### Diagnosis:

- Blood work

### Treatment:

- Antiinflammatory drugs
- Supportive care

## Potomac Horse Fever

### What is it?

Potomac horse fever is a disease of the intestines causing fever and diarrhea. It can also, cause abortion in pregnant mares.

It is caused by a bacterium called *neorickettsia risticii*. The bacterium is found in flukes that are released into the water by aquatic snails. The flukes are then picked up by aquatic insects such as

damselflies, dragonflies, and mayflies. A horse may then ingest one of these aquatic insects carrying *neorickettsia risticii* while grazing.

### Clinical Signs:

- Diarrhea
- Depression
- No appetite
- Lethargic
- Laminitis
- Mild colic
- High Fever

### Diagnosis:

- Clinical signs
- Blood testing

### Treatment:

- Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs
- Antibiotics
- Supportive care

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## Preparing Your Horse for Winter

It's important to start thinking about getting your horse ready for winter!

Nutrition is key when preparing your horse for winter especially when dealing with older horses. Older horses tend to be on the thinner side, so we want to make sure their body condition is sufficient for the cold weather.

To get a head start on winter now is the time to begin increasing feed particularly for your older horses that aren't as hardy! You'll want to make sure you're stocked up on hay and have enough to get you through the winter since pasture will be limited.

It's also not a bad idea to have your hay tested to

ensure it has all the proper nutrients required for your horse. We can take a sample while we are out to give fall boosters or you can drop off a sample at our clinic to have sent to the lab.



*For cold weather information and tips check back in December for our winter newsletter*

### Do you want your horse featured in our next newsletter?

If your answer is yes, we can make that happen!

We are looking for a picture to be featured in our winter newsletter. You can submit your pictures by emailing them to [muddycrk@gmail.com](mailto:muddycrk@gmail.com).

We will then randomly select a picture from those that were submitted.

If the horse in your picture has a special story we would love to hear about that as well. If it doesn't that is okay too!

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We now have a website where our clients can go to get a list of our services, a look at our staff, client education, Google directions for finding our office, and even a link to other services such as farriers, equine dentists, animal rescues, trainers, etc. If you need more information please feel free to visit our website to learn more about us.

We would like to continue sending newsletters on a seasonal basis! You can download newsletters off our website or call us with your email address so we can email them directly to you.

Please let us know if you have any subjects you want us to discuss in our next newsletter. We would love to hear your ideas! Just give us a call or send us an email with your thoughts!

**We're on the Web!**  
**Muddycreekvet.com**

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