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### Linwood Veterinary Services

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*We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.*

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am to 5pm Open Saturday 7am-12pm

Hwy 89 Clinic Hours: Mon-Sat 7am to 1 pm

CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday

24 Hour Emergency Vet Service - call 519-698-2610 519-323-9002 519-699-0404 1-800-663-2941

## SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

### October Holiday

Thanksgiving will be observed on **Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>**. There will be no delivery service. The on-call vet will be available for emergencies.

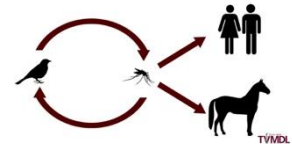
Both clinics will be open only in the mornings for pick-ups and early residue tests.

### Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Horses

#### What is EEE?

Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE), commonly referred to as sleeping sickness, is a viral disease that attacks the brain and spinal cord. Birds and rodents are the primary reservoirs of the virus, and mosquitoes transmit the disease to horses. It is most common in the southeastern USA but can be seen in Ontario and the rest of northeastern North America.

Incidental hosts for this virus include horses and humans. Affected humans can present with flu-like symptoms. Although human infection with EEE is very uncommon, children and immunocompromised people are at a higher risk.



Recently there have been several EEE cases reported in horses throughout northeastern North America, including 9 cases in Ontario within the last month. Horses affected were unvaccinated, under-vaccinated or had unknown vaccine history.

## What does EEE look like?

EEE is a highly fatal disease in horses. It initially causes non-specific signs of illness such as fever, decreased appetite, dull mentation and quickly progresses to neurological signs. Possible neurologic signs include seizures, incoordination, weakness, blindness, inability to swallow, or unusual behavior. Many horses become too weak to stand within 12-18 hours of onset of neurologic signs, and most succumb to this virus within 2-3 days and/or are euthanized. Being a viral disease, supportive treatment is the only option and is rarely successful.

## How do I protect my horse? **VACCINATION!!**

We are fortunate to have vaccines available in Canada that are highly effective at preventing EEE. Vaccinating with a 5-way (Prestige 5) or 6-way (Prestige 5+WNV) is highly recommended to provide protection towards EEE and other viral diseases.

Vaccines in clinic (Prestige 5 and Prestige 5+WNV\*) provide coverage for:

- Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) & Western Equine Encephalitis (WEE) → neurological disease
- Equine influenza → respiratory disease
- Equine Herpesvirus → neurological disease, respiratory disease, abortion and neonatal death
- Tetanus → musculoskeletal disease
- West Nile Virus\* → neurological disease.

Initial vaccination series for horses 6 months of age or older is two doses 3-4 weeks apart and boosters once annually. Annual boosters are recommended prior to the onset of mosquito season (April-June). Vaccination of broodmares and foals follows a different schedule and is variable depending on previous vaccine history. Please chat with us for more details!

*Protect your horse with vaccination! If you have questions about EEE and/or core vaccines, please reach out to us.*

