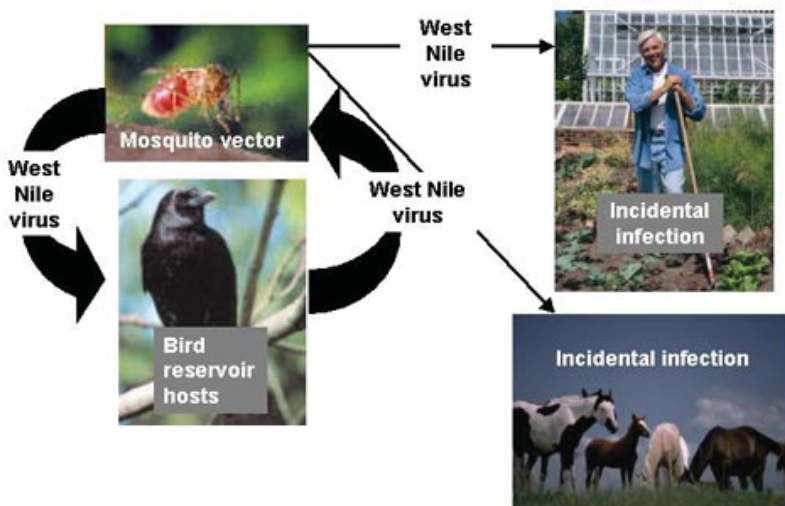


# West Nile Virus: Protecting Your Horses

## Transmission

West Nile virus (WNV) is spread to horses and other mammals through the bite of an infected mosquito. A mosquito first becomes infected by feeding on a bird that has virus in its blood. The mosquito then transmits WNV when it bites another person or animal. Horses are 'accidental hosts' for WNV; mosquitoes that bite them do not become infected.

### West Nile Virus Transmission Cycle



## Prevention

### Vaccinate Your Horse

Contact your veterinarian for the vaccination. Horses should be vaccinated before summertime because that is mosquito breeding season.

### Eliminate Mosquito Breeding Sites

Mosquitoes breed in standing water. Dump or drain any water left unmoving for more than one week. Sources can include flower pots, watering troughs and other small containers.

### Use Screens on Housing

Well-maintained screens can help keep mosquitoes out of stalls, barns and other enclosures.

### Apply Insect Repellent for Pets

Using insect repellent may help decrease mosquito bites. Apply according to label instructions.

## Symptoms

Horses may become infected without showing any clinical symptoms. Fever is not a common symptom. Horses can die from WNV and there is no cure. Symptoms may include:

- Stumbling and lack of coordination
- Weakness of limbs, partial paralysis or the inability to stand
- Depression or apprehension
- Muscle twitching

*For more information, please contact:*

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