

# Cleary Lake Veterinary Hospital Newsletter

Equine Edition

April 2009

## West Nile Virus Update

What's new on the West Nile Virus front? West Nile-Innovator DNA is the first DNA vaccine of its kind and is the first animal DNA vaccine to be fully licensed by the USDA. Developed by research scientists at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), it is the first vaccine of its kind in this country fully licensed by the USDA.

Unlike conventional vaccines, which rely on the foreign proteins derived from disease-causing agents, West Nile-Innovator DNA uses purified DNA plasmids to stimulate an immune response. West Nile-Innovator DNA contains no live or killed viruses, no live vector or viral proteins, and there is no risk of reversion to virulence.

### SAFETY TO TRUST

Greater than 99 percent reaction-free when administered intramuscularly to 645 male and female horses of various breeds and ages, including some horses as young as 2 months of age (based on field safety studies).

### VACCINE ADMINISTRATION

For the current vaccine, we are recommending the following for our Minnesota horses:

**-Adult horses:** If your horse has been previously vaccinated the recommended dosage is one dose by intramuscular injection. All unvaccinated adults should receive two initial inoculations the first year, 2-4 weeks apart. In subsequent years, they should be vaccinated once a year during the mosquito season. We are recommending May for Minnesota.

**-Pregnant mares:** Should receive a booster 4-6 weeks before foaling. If they have never been vaccinated for WNV before, they should receive two inoculations at 2 and 1 month prior to their expected foaling date.

**Foals:** Please consult with a veterinarian at CLVH to determine what is best for your foal. Foals from mares that were not vaccinated may need to receive their initial vaccinations as early as 2-3 months of age.

Any questions, please contact us at 952-435-8387

## ATTENTION

We are now asking for 24 hour notice when calling in equine prescription refill. We need this time to locate the prescribing veterinarian for authorization.

**Cleary Lake Veterinary  
Hospital  
18577 Natchez Avenue  
Prior Lake, MN 55372  
952-435-8387**

Make your life easier!  
Sign up for automatic payment of your bill and receive a 3% discount for paying at the time of service! (We are currently working on having an online bill pay option. We'll let you know when that's an option.)  
952-435-8387

**Come find us at  
the MN Horse  
Expo at the  
Fairgrounds  
April 23-26**

The oldest horse on verifiable record was "Old Billy" a horse that lived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the age of 62 years. Average life expectancy is 25-30 years.

Most of the time, a horse has "monocular" vision. This means a different image is seen by each eye so that a horse is seeing two different pictures at the same time. A horse can also have "binocular" vision. Binocular vision is when both eyes work together to see one picture (humans have binocular vision). A horse only has binocular vision when it is looking down its nose.