



## Ontario Animal Health Network (OAHN) Equine Expert Network Q3 (July 1<sup>st</sup> –September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015)



This information is a professional communication for the Equine Industry. The OAHN group is a dedicated group of veterinarians from primary care practices, academia, government and laboratories, who meet regularly to discuss Equine disease and health issues. It is the intent of this program to monitor and protect the health of horses in Ontario. A summary of the Network discussion with key points is presented below. This is for information purposes only. Please contact your veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment. For more information about OAHN, please go to:

<http://oahn.ca/networks/equine/>

### Key Points for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter:

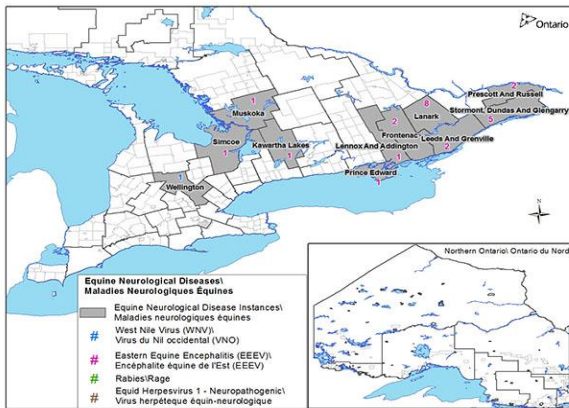
- An increase in the number of horses with diarrhea was noted predominantly in Eastern Ontario. In many horses Potomac Horse Fever was identified, but in others no cause was found. Most horses responded rapidly to veterinary treatment.
- Several horses were diagnosed with fever and low protein. Some were diagnosed with Potomac Horse Fever but in others no cause was identified.
- A decrease in infectious neurological disease, namely Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus, was noted this quarter compared to the same time last year
- Allergies affecting the respiratory tract and skin continued to be a problem for pleasure and performance horses
- Fevers of unknown origin occurred sporadically in certain regions of the province

### Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and West Nile Virus (WNV)

- As of Sept 30, there have been 4 EEE cases and 3 WNV cases this quarter.

### Rabies

- Raccoon rabies was last detected in Ontario in 2005, fox rabies in 2012 and bat rabies in 2015
- There continues to be risk of incursion of fox rabies from Northern regions of the province and of raccoon rabies from New York state.
- Contact with rabid bats remains a risk in all regions.
- Avoid contact with potentially rabid wildlife, and keep horses up-to-date on rabies vaccination.
- If you suspect your horse may have recently been exposed to a potentially rabid animal, contact your veterinarian for an assessment and to vaccinate (or revaccinate) your horse as soon as possible
- <http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/food/inspection/ahw/rabies.htm>



[http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/facts/nhd\\_surv2015.htm](http://www.omafra.gov.on.ca/english/livestock/horses/facts/nhd_surv2015.htm)

### Notes from Laboratory Submissions

- Of the fecal egg count tests performed on manure samples and submitted to the Animal Health Lab and IDEXX Laboratories as part of routine parasite management for individual horses and stables, approximately 82% of the tests reported fecal egg counts of less than 200 eggs per gram. **Treatment with a dewormer is usually not necessary in adult horses until the egg count is greater than 200.** Using fecal egg counts to guide when to use dewormers is critical to preventing parasite resistance from misuse and overuse of deworming medication.
- Equine veterinarians in Ontario continue to test for Lyme disease however, only 22 /109 tests submitted to the Animal Health Lab and IDEXX Laboratories were positive for Lyme disease. Appropriate treatment for Lyme disease should be guided by positive test results to avoid inappropriate antibiotic use and the development of antibiotic resistance.