

Equine Health Solutions

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Rabies In Our Area

The AAEP recommends the rabies vaccine as one of the core vaccines to be given to your horse annually. Horses are not affected frequently with this disease, but death always occurs.

In August 2008, Dr. Wagner diagnosed a horse in our area with rabies. Although the horse had been to the Missouri State Fair, it was in Cass County when it was exposed to and died from the rabies virus. It is not known at this time, how the horse was exposed to the virus.

The incubation time in horses for the rabies virus is 3 to 6 weeks. Since a horse can shed the virus before showing clinical signs, a normal appearing horse can be a human health risk. The virus is spread through direct contact with infected saliva and is not transmitted through urine, feces or blood. Once the saliva is dried, the rabies virus is dead.

Dr. Wagner highly recommends your horse be vaccinated yearly for rabies; not only for your horses health, but for your health as well. Further helpful information may be attained from the Missouri Health Department or from the web sites listed under "Useful Links", on the above toolbar.

If Equine Health Solutions can answer any questions or assist you with your horse in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone or email.