

# KIRKTON VETERINARY CLINIC

## | Equine Services |

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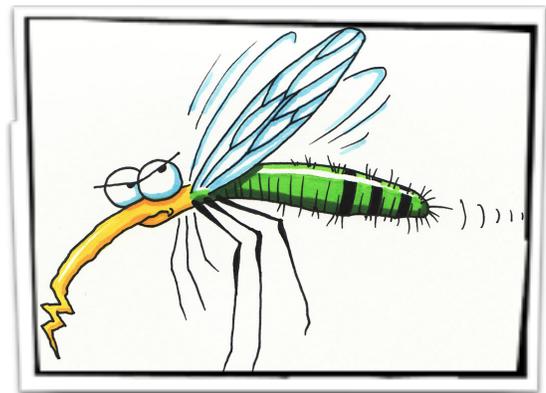
DR. TIFFANY GAYNOR

### Tips for Reducing Mosquito Exposure

- Fill in areas where water accumulates after a rainfall. These are ideal mosquito breeding sites.
- Eliminate or cover structures that accumulate water, such as jars/cans, clogged roof gutters, children's wading pools, and discarded tires. Empty bird baths regularly.
- Use fly sheets and masks to reduce the total body area exposed to mosquitoes.
- Avoid turnout or riding outdoors between dusk and dawn, when mosquitoes are most active.
- Ensure barns have tight fitting screens over windows and doors.
- Use yellow incandescent or fluorescent lights. Mosquitoes are less attracted to them.
- Use horse approved insect repellants. DEET-containing products are most effective.

## WEST NILE - IT'S BACK!!!

Actually, it never left! In 2013, there were 11 confirmed cases of West Nile Virus in Ontario (almost double the number from 2012). One of these cases was in our practice, and two others were also in our



area. West Nile Virus is spread to horses via mosquito bites, and causes life threatening neurological disease. It should be noted that most cases occur around this time of year. Please arrange to have your horse vaccinated, if you haven't done so already. It's never too late to vaccinate!

### EEE Confirmed in Ontario

On August 16, 2014, the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture (OMAF) confirmed a fatal case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in an unvaccinated horse in the Stormont, Dundas, Glengarry region.

This disease is transmitted by mosquitos and causes neurological problems such as ataxia (wobbly gait), circling, head pressing, depression, and often death.

Prevention is available for EEE, and is often combined with other common vaccines. If you have any questions regarding your horse's vaccine status, please contact us!



## Fall Deworming

To deworm, or not to deworm? Fall is a great time to have a fecal egg count done on your horse, as this is when egg burdens tend to be their highest on pastures. It's as easy as bringing a fresh poop sample into the clinic and leaving the rest to us!

Keep in mind, tapeworms are difficult to detect on fecals and are acquired when your horse eats the tiny mite which the tapeworm needs to complete its life cycle. Every horse is susceptible, no matter how pristine your pasture is! The ideal time to deworm horses for tapeworms is after the first frost (i.e. when the mites are gone). Look for products that contain the ingredient praziquantel, (they often contain the words "plus", "gold", or "max" in their title).

### HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The clinic will be closed on Monday October 13 for Thanksgiving. Emergency services will be available by calling 519-229-8911 or 1-888-443-4184.

## Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall! Caring For Horses When The Temperature Drops



It's that time of year when the days start to get shorter and the nights start getting a little chillier. As the weather gets cooler, different steps need to be taken to ensure your horse stays in tip top shape!

Here are some tips:

- ◆ Ensure your horse's dental needs have been met. Horses require more energy in cooler temperatures in order to maintain their warmth, making it imperative that they are able to eat properly. If your horse's teeth have not been checked this year, please call us to have them assessed.
- ◆ As grasses start to dwindle, horses must rely on us to provide them with all of their nutritional needs. Make sure your horse is getting enough hay, and consider adding a pelleted feed, especially for those "hard keepers".
- ◆ Horses often drink less when the weather quickly becomes cool. Consequently, they have an increased risk for developing colic, which can be life threatening. Providing a salt block, and soaking pellets or hay for 20 - 30 minutes prior to eating are easy ways to increase your horse's water consumption.
- ◆ Now is a great time to make sure your facilities are ready for winter. Before we know it, snow will be here and it is important that horses have appropriate and safe shelter from the elements.

