

Viral diseases of the Horse

Rabies

Rabies

Rabies is a highly fatal, contagious disease that affects the central nervous system. The rabies virus is transmitted from animal to animal or animal to human through direct contact with saliva of an infected animal. This direct contact can be a bite wound or saliva entering an existing wound. In horses, a direct bite wound is the most common means of transmission. Domestic dogs and cats, along with skunks, foxes, raccoons, and bats, can carry the rabies virus.

Clinical Signs

1. depression
2. incoordination
3. ataxia
4. colic
5. fever
6. loss of appetite
7. muscle spasms of the third eyelid
8. blindness
9. urinary incontinence
10. restlessness.

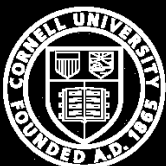
Treatment

Rabies has an incubation period of two to nine weeks, but the incubation period may be as long as 15 months. Once onset of the disease occurs, it progresses rapidly, ending in death. Death can occur as quickly as in 12 hours but more typically will take three to five days.

Prevention

The best prevention of rabies in horses is to properly vaccinate the animal once a year.

This fact sheet was gleaned from material provided by the eXtension website (extension.org), which came from many sources and is for informational purposes only. It is not intended to be a substitute for personalized professional advice. For specific local information, contact your local county Cooperative Extension office, your veterinarian or other qualified professionals.



Cornell University
Cooperative Extension
Orange County

Agriculture
Family & Consumer Sciences
4-H Youth Development

18 Seward Ave., Ste. 300
Middletown, NY 10940
845-344-1234
Mon.-Fri., 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
www.cce.cornell.edu/orange
Garden Helpline: 845-343-0664