

## ECO FALL NEWSLETTER

### WEST NILE IN NEW YORK

#### An overview

West Nile Virus creates inflammation of the central nervous system. Prior to August 1999 the disease was only present in Africa, Eastern Europe, and West Asia. It is now considered an endemic disease in the United States. Humans and animals become infected from the bite of certain mosquitos who have fed from wild birds, which are the carrier of this disease. In the northeast we primarily see infections in the late summer or early fall. Clinical signs include fever, weakness/paralysis of the hind limbs, impaired vision, generalized weakness, head pressing, inability to swallow, circling, and aimless wandering. A safe and effective vaccine is available for horses. Environmental measures should also be taken to control the mosquito population. These primarily include limiting standing water to prevent the breeding of mosquitos.

**AT THIS TIME WE RECOMMEND ALL HORSES BE VACCINATED WHO ARE YOUNGER THAN 5 YEARS OLD AND OLDER THAN 15 YEARS OLD, AS WELL AS THOSE HORSES VACCINATED MORE THAN 6 MONTHS AGO!**

Recently an unvaccinated horse was diagnosed in Saratoga County with West Nile. Additionally there have been reported cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in the area. Last year mosquitoes tested positive for WNV as late as November, and we may again face another mild fall. In light of this situation, we are

recommending a booster vaccine for some horses to insure maximal protection. It is not too late to start this vaccine with your horse! Due to the endemic nature, it is likely that many horses carry some natural titers and starting the series will give your horse the extra boost needed to be

protective this fall. This vaccine will include a booster for Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis as well as West Nile. Our price for this booster will be \$38. Please call to schedule your boosters today.

### FALL DENTAL CLINIC

As the nights get cooler, now is a great time to assess the condition of your horse's teeth to maximize the nutrition they get from their food and minimize the impact on your wallet! Proper dental care is especially important in the geriatric population and the hard keepers. Schedule your appointment for dentals today with the doctor of your choice. If you have two or more dentals to be done, your call charge will be reduced by 50%. This is also a great time to incorporate fall shots and checking the fall fecals if needed!

## BREEDING FOR SUCCESS

Did you know that a mare is more likely to get pregnant if we breed her in May than if we breed her in July? A mare's cycle is harder to predict and ovulation is more erratic the later in the season we go. If you want to breed your mare next year, let's start trying as early as possible! It may seem odd to be talking about breeding in the fall, but this is the time to plan for next year. Fall is a good time to talk to stallion owners and get contracts in order, as well as try to work out some financial deals. It is also a good time to look objectively at your budget as breeding and foaling expenses can add

up quickly. If you want January or February foals, November 15<sup>th</sup> is the time to put your mare under artificial lights to have her ready to breed. We welcome the chance to work with you and your horses to make your breeding dreams come true. Please contact Dr. Carlin Jones with any questions.

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PLEASE SEND US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS AS WE ARE UPDATING OUR FILES! BE SURE TO INCLUDE ANY CHANGES, SUCH AS HORSES, LOCATIONS, AND PHONE NUMBERS!

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LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO BOARD YOUR SPECIAL BROODMARE OR RETIRED HORSE? OAKENCROFT NOW HAS ROOM FOR A NEW BAND OF BROODMARES AND WE WILL BE OFFERING 3 TIERS OF CARE FOR RETIRED HORSES. STOP IN AND VISIT! THE FARM IS BEAUTIFUL IN THE FALL

WATCH FOR OUR MAILING TO ANNOUNCE OUR WINTER CLIENT EDUCATION IN A LOCATION NEAR YOU! WE WILL BE COVERING RADIOLOGY, STRATEGIC DEWORMING, AND MOSQUITO BORNE NEUROLOGIC DISEASE!

Equine Clinic at OakenCroft  
880 Bridge Street, Ravena, NY 12143  
518 767 2906  
[www.oakencroft.org](http://www.oakencroft.org)

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**DON'T FORGET TO SCHEDULE YOUR GERIATRIC EXAM! AN EXAM IS \$125 AND INCLUDES 2 RADIOGRAPHS OF YOUR HORSE'S FRONT FEET!**

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