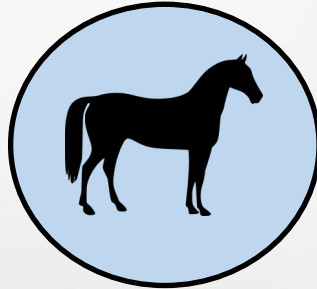
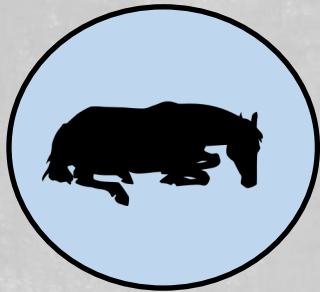


West Nile virus in horses

Biting mosquitoes infect horses with WNV. Horses are dead-end hosts, meaning they cannot spread the virus to other mammals or biting mosquitoes.



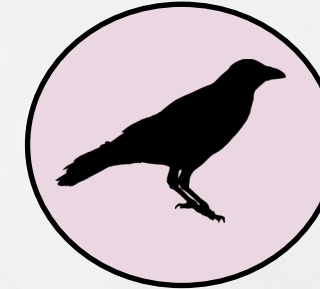
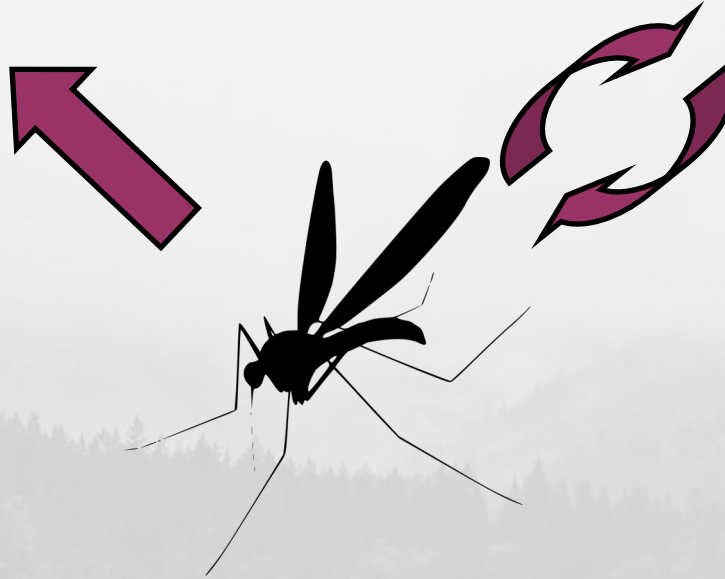
Signs of WNV infection include: incoordination, hind limb weakness or paralysis, inability to stand, muscle twitching, depression, blindness, and sudden death



A blood sample can be taken by your veterinarian to confirm WNV infection. Horses recently vaccinated for WNV may have a false positive result.

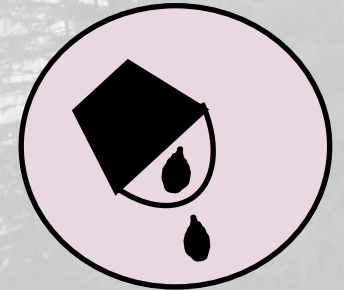


In Ontario, the West Nile virus (WNV) replicates in mosquitoes of the *Culex* species.

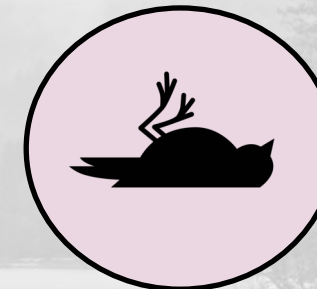


Birds such as crows, sparrows and blue jays can amplify the virus when infected by a biting mosquito and can spread the virus over a large area.

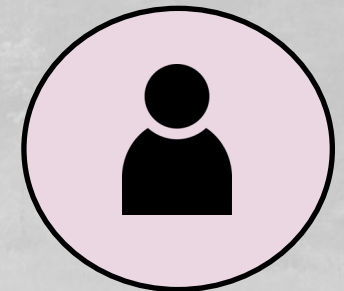
All sources of standing water should be emptied to eliminate mosquito breeding grounds.



Dead birds found on your property should be reported to the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative Ontario/Nunavut 1-866.673.4781



People are also dead-end hosts. For more information go to publichealthontario.ca



Vaccination is the best way to protect your horse from the West Nile virus. Contact your veterinarian today.



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