



# What's Up Doc?

March 2018

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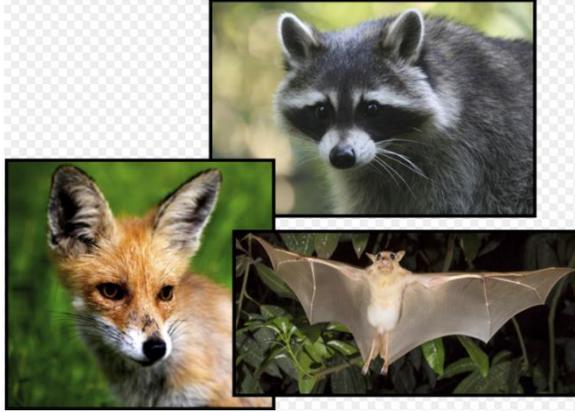
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## BEWARE: Rabies



Statistics show that only 25% of horses in the U.S. that receive regular medical care are vaccinated annually for rabies. In 2017 in Weld county alone there were six skunks, two foxes, and one dog that tested positive for rabies. The average household with a dog likely has the dog vaccinated against rabies, but how many people skip vaccinating

their horses? Considering the ratio of dogs to horses, horses are 2.5 times more likely to contract rabies than dogs bearing in mind that horses live outside full time. Many people use these animals as part of our livelihood, or an investment, so a simple vaccine is inexpensive insurance. For \$10 you can protect your horse from a painful and costly death.

The American Association of Equine Practitioners has determined a list of core vaccines including: West Nile, Eastern and Western Encephalitis,

Tetanus, and Rabies. Core vaccines are deemed vital for horses based on risk of exposure, severity of disease, and risk of transfer to humans. Viral respiratory and neurologic diseases are the leading preventable cause of death in horses. Rabies is a viral neurologic, zoonotic disease. A zoonotic disease can be transferred from animals or insects to humans. All animals that have regular contact with humans should be vaccinated for rabies. Vaccination against these diseases is now considered "standard of care". These vaccines are recommended to be administered annually. Under the manufacturer guarantee, if a licensed veterinarian vaccinates your horse with Boehringer Ingelheim, Merck, and/or Zoetis products, the manufacturer will cover reasonable medical expenses due to any vaccine reactions or contraction of any disease the vaccine is designed to prevent.

The rabies vaccination must be administered by a veterinarian in certain circumstances. In the case of a horse having contact with a rabid/potentially infected animal the public health department and State Veterinarian's office will be involved. If you vaccinated your own animal for rabies and can provide proof of vaccination the State veterinarian will take note of that, but the horse will be considered unvaccinated. This requires quarantine for up to six months as well as a series of three rabies booster vaccinations administered by a licensed veterinarian at the owner's expense, or euthanasia. If a licensed veterinarian administers a rabies vaccine to the horse no quarantine or rabies boosters will be required, should the horse be exposed

to a rabid animal. Unfortunately, a rabies titer is not sufficient to prove immunity in a legal setting in place of revaccinating.

The rabies virus is most commonly carried by skunks, bats, foxes, racoons, opossum, and coyotes. Rabies is transmitted by the saliva of a rabid animal entering the body through an open wound, or mucous membranes, or may be contracted via the bite of one of these rabid animals. Keep in mind a bite may not be visible through fur. Once a horse has been bitten, symptoms can appear almost immediately or can take up to 6 months after transmission to appear. The virus replicates at the site of exposure and travels up the nerves to the brain and salivary ducts. Horses bitten on the face will likely show symptoms much faster than if bitten on a leg.

Symptoms of rabies in horses can be vague and seemingly unrelated, with possible colic indicators, depression, lameness and increased sensitivity to touch. The more obvious symptoms are incoordination, behavioral changes including nervousness and irritability, teeth grinding, swallowing problems, and drooling. Once the horse is showing symptoms of rabies, it is ***ALWAYS FATAL***, typically within 3-5 days. The only way to confirm rabies is with a specialized laboratory test performed after death. If you suspect your horse has been bitten by a wild animal or is showing any of these symptoms you should immediately call your veterinarian for further instructions on how to handle the horse.

**Call Countryside Large Animal Vet to schedule an appointment to get your horses vaccinated against rabies at 970-351-7045. The rabies vaccine will be offered this spring at our annual client appreciation and equine vaccination day on April 14<sup>th</sup>.**

#### Resources:

Website to check Equine disease outbreaks in the US:

<http://equinediseasecc.org/alerts/outbreaks>

Weld County Department of Public Health:

[https://www.weldgov.com/departments/health\\_and\\_environment/environmental\\_health/animal\\_related\\_diseases/rabies\\_surveillance/](https://www.weldgov.com/departments/health_and_environment/environmental_health/animal_related_diseases/rabies_surveillance/)



**Countryside Large Animal Veterinary Service**

Join us on **Saturday April 14<sup>th</sup>** from **8AM to 2PM** for our **Annual Client Appreciation Day!!**

We will be serving **FREE** breakfast and lunch to thank our wonderful clients.

Information about Client Appreciation Day and awesome give away items coming soon on our Facebook page  
@CountrysideLargeAnimalVeterinaryService

**Spring Equine Vaccine Clinic**- Get set for Spring with an overall health exam, Spring vaccinations, fecal floats and deworming!!

**Waived Office Call!!**

Your RSVP is appreciated. 970-351-7045

**Countryside Large Animal Veterinary Service, PLLC**

**2 out of 3 horses suffer from gastric ulcers.**

**Can you stomach the competition?**

**ONE DAY ONLY!**  
**April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018**

**50% OFF GASTROSCOPY PROCEDURE\***

APPOINTMENTS FOR APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup> 2018 PROMOTION MUST BE SCHEDULED IN ADVANCE.  
\*OFFER APPLIES TO THE PROCEDURE CHARGES ONLY. SEDATION NOT INCLUDED.