



State of Utah

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News Release

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Date: August 24, 2016

First Detection of West Nile Virus in Utah Horse

Horse owners advised to take precautions against the virus

SALT LAKE CITY – The first confirmed case of equine West Nile Virus (WNV) has been reported to the State Veterinarian's office. The animal, located in Uintah County, was a four-year old, unvaccinated, Quarter Horse gelding. The horse was humanely euthanized because of severe clinical signs and for the welfare of the animal.

Utah horse owners are advised to vaccinate their horses in order to protect them from the West Nile Virus. A very safe, affordable and effective vaccine is available.

“Since West Nile Virus symptoms in horses in surrounding states have been increasing in recent days Utah horse owners are advised to take necessary precautions to protect their animals,” said State Veterinarian, Dr. Barry Pittman. “Protective steps would include a good vaccination protocol, mosquito control, and clean-up of areas around barns and stables to minimize mosquito populations,” he added.

Data shows that 80 percent of cases in horses occur during the months of August and September. WNV is spread by mosquitos, and can affect both humans and animals.

WNV is a reportable disease and is part of a statewide information and alert system designed to protect animal and human health. Contact your veterinarian if you have questions or concerns.

More information about ways to protect animals from West Nile Virus visit: <http://bit.ly/2bBxALP>

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