



## Stopping rabies starts with you.

### Sign of the times.

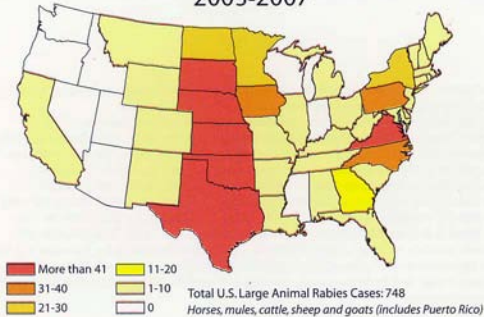
For the first time, the 2008 AAEP\* Guidelines for the Vaccination of Horses define rabies as a “core vaccination,”<sup>1</sup> because of the potential public health significance of the disease.

This is good news, because it means more horse owners will be vaccinating their horses — and helping prevent the spread of rabies.

The total number of reported cases of rabies in horses remains relatively low. But every case presents a death sentence to the infected horse<sup>2</sup> — and a risk of infection for other horses.

*At the 2006 Tennessee Walking Horse National Celebration, 150,000 people were notified by the CDC that they had potentially been exposed to rabies after a gelding, which was later confirmed to have rabies, was euthanized.<sup>3</sup>*

Large Animal Rabies Prevalence<sup>4,5,6,7,8</sup>  
2003-2007



\*American Association of Equine Practitioners

## Signs of rabies infection.

The most common sign of rabies is a change in behavior,<sup>9</sup> usually with the horse appearing dull or depressed. Other signs include:<sup>2</sup>

- Colic
- Hyperexcitability
- Paralysis
- Convulsions
- Lack of coordination
- Excessive salivation
- Difficulty swallowing
- Aggressive behavior

Because the signs of rabies can vary so widely — and the disease is so serious — some experts recommend that horse owners think of rabies first whenever they see unexplained clinical signs in horses.<sup>9</sup>

The best way to stop rabies is prevention. There are no treatments for horses infected with rabies, and it is always fatal once signs appear.<sup>10</sup>

## Tips to help you prevent rabies.

- Discourage wild animals from coming near barns or pastures
- Clean up exposed garbage
- Avoid leaving out grain or other feed products
- Report wild animals or strays that are behaving strangely
- Report horse bites, especially if the horse's vaccination history is unknown
- Make sure any pets around the barn are vaccinated
- Vaccinate horses with IMRAB<sup>®</sup> to prevent rabies<sup>11</sup>
  - Veterinarians have trusted IMRAB for more than 20 years
  - IMRAB is from Merial, the world leader in rabies prevention

**If you have any questions about rabies vaccination for your horse, contact your veterinarian.**

<sup>1</sup>AAEP Core Vaccination Guidelines. Available at [http://www.aaep.org/core\\_vaccinations.htm](http://www.aaep.org/core_vaccinations.htm). Accessed December 1, 2008.  
<sup>2</sup>Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine online publication January 2004.  
Available at: <http://old.cvm.msu.edu/extension/equine/RabiesinHorses.pdf>. Accessed December 1, 2008.  
<sup>3</sup>Horse stabled at Tennessee Walking Horse 2006 National Celebration tested positive for rabies, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Web site. Available at: [http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2006-09-09\\_horse.html](http://www.cdc.gov/rabies/news/2006-09-09_horse.html). Accessed December 1, 2008.  
<sup>4</sup>Blanton JD, Krebs JW, et al. Rabies surveillance in the United States during 2003. *JAVMA* 2004;225(12):1840.  
<sup>5</sup>Blanton JD, Krebs JW, et al. Rabies surveillance in the United States during 2004. *JAVMA* 2005;227(12):1915.  
<sup>6</sup>Blanton JD, Krebs JW, et al. Rabies surveillance in the United States during 2005. *JAVMA* 2006;229(12):1897-1900.  
<sup>7</sup>Blanton JD, Krebs JW, et al. Rabies surveillance in the United States during 2006. *JAVMA* 2007;231(4):540-543.  
<sup>8</sup>Blanton JD, Palmer D, et al. Rabies surveillance in the United States during 2007. *JAVMA* 2008;233(6):884-897.  
<sup>9</sup>Rabies in Horses. University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Cooperative Extension Service, Publication ASC-125. Available at: <http://www.uky.edu/Ag/AnimalSciences/pubs/asc125.pdf>. Accessed December 1, 2008.  
<sup>10</sup>Merck Veterinary Manual. Available at: [www.merck.com/mmpe/sec16/ch217/ch217g.html](http://www.merck.com/mmpe/sec16/ch217/ch217g.html). Accessed December 1, 2008.  
<sup>11</sup>USDA-approved label claim.

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