



Ashtabula County Health Department
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Health Commissioner

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DATE: October 17, 2019
TO: Veterinarians, Animal Hospitals & Clinics of Ashtabula County
FROM: Ashtabula County Health Department (ACHD)
RE: Horses infected with Eastern Equine Encephalitis

The Ohio Department of Agriculture (ODA) reported another equine case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) in Ashtabula County this week. The case involved a horse from a farm in Orwell Township. This is the fifth case in Ohio, the third in Ashtabula County. Here are the details provided by ODA:

- The fifth positive horse was a 2-year-old Friesian crossbred gelding from Orwell, Ohio, in Ashtabula County that became acutely neurologic, and was unvaccinated. Serum collected on 10/3/19 and tested at NVSL had an IgM capture ELISA titer of $\geq 1:400$ as reported on 10/11/19. No nucleic acid for West Nile, equine herpesvirus types 1 and 4, or EEE viruses were detected in a blood sample by PCR assays. CBC and profile unremarkable.
- Date of onset – Thursday 10/3/19
- Outcome and date – Euthanized on Tuesday 10/8/19
- Clinical signs – Ataxic in both back legs, couldn't swallow, very depressed, obtunded, temp 102.9°F on presentation.
- Veterinarian: Dr. Meghan Kartley, Maple Leaf Veterinary, 15264 Kinsman Rd., Middlefield, Ohio, Office (440)426-0177, Cell (440)478-3704

The confirmation of EEE should serve as a reminder to horse owners on the need to vaccinate their horses. EEE attacks the nervous system of horses and the virus is transmitted by mosquitos. EEE can also be transmitted to humans, but often times goes unreported as infected persons report no apparent illness.

Horse owners should also take steps to remove standing water from near their homes, to reduce the breeding of mosquitos.

Should you have any further questions pertaining to this matter, please contact Jodi Slayton, RN, BSN, at the Ashtabula County Health Department at (440)576-6010 or 576-3023 between the hours of 8:00 and 4:30 pm weekdays.

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