

LBEMC Vaccine Protocols **2008**

West Nile Vaccination

Our clinic continues to recommend twice yearly West Nile vaccine, because of the year-round presence of virus-bearing mosquitoes. A January or February West Nile vaccination (often combined with Tetanus and Sleeping Sickness vaccines), followed by a late June or early July West Nile booster, provides optimal protection. We continue to recommend the Fort Dodge brand “West Nile Innovator” as our main-line vaccine for adult horses. This vaccine has provided excellent protection, has a very low rate of reactions, and is convenient for both veterinary and client administration. For clients who choose to vaccinate once a year against West Nile virus, the vaccine should be administered in late June or early July with the awareness that protection is waning in Spring and early Summer.

Foal Vaccination Protocol

Foal vaccination programs are complicated because of the need for frequent boosters, the number of diseases against which foals should be protected, and the fact that no one likes to stick needles into these cute youngsters. We can't avoid needles, but we have reduced the number of sticks by adding an intranasal vaccine to our foal protocol. The program will rely on vaccines from the Intervet Company and will start, as before, at 5 months of age. The antigens included in foal vaccines are: Tetanus, Sleeping sickness, West Nile, Rhinopneumonitis, Influenza, and Rabies. Where there is potential exposure, Strangles protection should be added.

In order to simplify our vaccine handouts, we have separated the foal/broodmare schedule from the adult horse (greater than 1 year of age) schedule. These handouts will be available at both our office and at our website www.loomisbasinlargeanimal.com.

Intervet has a helpful website www.foalcare.com at which a mare's breeding date can be entered in order to produce an individualized schedule of immunizations and deworming for both pregnant mare and new foal. This schedule is, in most instances, consistent with our recommendations. Under the LBEMC protocol, a foal should be seen for vaccinations at 5,6,7,9 and 10 months of age.