August 13, 2014

Notice to CVMA-SBCV Chapter Members

Possible West Nile Cases in Cache Creek area

Dr. Gavaga has informed us of two clinical cases of West Nile virus in horses in the Cache Creek and Ashcroft area.

The first horse had been vaccinated (2014) and is recovering from posterior ataxia symptoms. Blood tests for Serum Neutralization done at Cornell showed a rising titre from acute/convalescent (Pre-39.77, Post-60.95).

The second horse had NO VACCINATION history and showed symptoms of ataxia. Acute S/N was high enough for Cornell to call it a positive case (Pre-31.95, Post due next week). We assume this will confirm a positive diagnosis of West Nile, and we will then send out a news release to all media outlets. We have had false positive SN results in the past, and need to be sure before we go public. However, you might want to be ready for calls for vaccination boosters next week, as many horse owners have not had an annual booster this year.

We will keep you posted as soon as we have further information. Dr Gavaga is away until Friday 15th, and I will then have more first-hand information.

Dr John Twidale
Chair, Equine Committee
CVMA-SBCV Chapter