



West Nile Virus and Eastern Equine Encephalitis In Dogs and Cats

Can West Nile Virus (WNV) or Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) cause illness in dogs or cats?

WNV and EEE have been isolated from cats and dogs. Most dogs or cats infected with these viruses fully recover from the infection. There is no specific therapy, but in more severe cases, supportive treatment may be indicated.

Can infected dogs or cats be carriers and transmitters of WNV/EEE to humans?

Infected mosquitoes transmit WNV and EEE. There is no documented evidence of animal-to-animal or animal-to-person transmission of WNV or EEE. Veterinarians should take normal infection control precautions when caring for an animal suspected of having this or any other viral infection.

How do dogs or cats become infected with WNV or EEE?

Dogs and cats become infected the same way humans become infected: by the bite of an infected mosquito.

Can a dog or cat infected with WNV/EEE infect other dogs or cats?

No. There is no documented evidence that either virus is transmitted from animal to animal.

Should a dog or cat infected with WNV/EEE be euthanized? What is the treatment for an animal infected with WNV/EEE?

There is no reason to euthanize an animal infected with WNV or EEE. Full recovery from the infection is likely. Treatment would be supportive and consistent with standard veterinary practices for animals infected with a viral agent.

**For veterinary questions about WNV or EEE, contact the
State Veterinarian's office, (603) 271-2404**

**For more information, call the New Hampshire Department of Health
And Human Services, WNV/EEE Information line, at
1-866-273-NILE (6453).**