

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eastern Equine Encephalitis & Horse Health

SUFFOLK, VA. (June 6, 2023) Suffolk Public Works, Mosquito Control division advises horse owners to vaccinate their horses. Eastern Equine Encephalitis is detected every year in Suffolk, but horse owners can protect their animals from this deadly disease by vaccinating them. If a horse is already vaccinated, then it may only need a booster.

Charles Abadam, Superintendent of Suffolk Mosquito Control says, "We detect Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus every year but people have never contracted either from these mosquitoes. However, horses are commonly found with Eastern Equine Encephalitis in Suffolk and we urge owners to vaccinate. If they have any questions they can contact us."

Dog and cat owners are also encouraged to take part in preventing heartworm disease from affecting their animals.

You can help eliminate mosquito-breeding sites around your home and neighborhood by following these steps:

- Empty water-holding containers:
 - buckets, drums, bottles, tin cans, wheel barrows, potted plant trays, etc.
- Properly dispose of used tires.
- Clear roof gutters, downspouts and corrugated black drainpipes for any water collection.
- Clean wading and swimming pools
- Drain water from tarps

- Place Mosquito Dunks in stagnant water areas around your home which include ditches and low lying areas

Free Mosquito Dunks are available to Suffolk citizens at City Hall, All Fire Stations, All Recreation Centers, All Libraries, and Public Works Operations at 800 Carolina Rd, 23434. In order to get your free Mosquito Dunks you must be 18 years of age or older, have proof of residence in the City of Suffolk, proper picture identification and sign the "Information Sheet." When you arrive at the fire station a flier on the front door details specific instructions on how to retrieve your dunks. Placing Mosquito Dunks in stagnant water habitats is a common practice used to eliminate mosquito larvae.

For more information concerning EEE and WNV refer to the following links:

Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

[VDH EEE Information HERE](#) [VDH WNV Information HERE](#)

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

[CDC EEE Information HERE](#) [CDC WNV Information HERE](#)

[Horses and EEE FAQ Sheet HERE](#) provided by Rutgers University

For more information about Suffolk Mosquito Control visit www.suffolkva.us/mosquito or contact Charles Abadam, Superintendent of Suffolk Mosquito Control 757.514.7609 or cabadam@suffolkva.us