

# Equine Encephalomyelitis

Also known as Sleeping Sickness.



Transmitted from Birds to

Mosquitoes to

Horses.

- Serious disease caused by a virus.
- Three types are Eastern (EEE), Western (WEE), and Venezuelan (VEE).

**Signs/Symptoms:**

- About 2 days after infected – low-grade fever.
- 4 days – fever, rapid heart rate, signs of anorexia and depression.
- Illness progresses – muscle weakness, behavioral changes and dementia, aggression, head pressing, wall leaning, compulsive circling, blindness, uncontrolled twitching of the eyeball, and facial muscle paralysis.
- Progresses More – semi-comatose and convulsive state occurs.
- 2-3 days later – Death occurs

**Causes:** Serious inflammation of the brain and spinal cord. And leads to Death or if survives, residual nervous system problems.

**Prevention:** Take measures to decrease the population of mosquitoes. And get your animals immunized.

**TREATMENT:** No treatment, but if your horse becomes infected:  
Reported Mortality Rates:  
EEE is 75-90%  
WEE is 20-50%

**Immunizations:** Annual vaccination for EEE, WEE, and VEE are available. But in US mainly need just EEE and WEE. In the Northern areas once a year is usually enough. But in southern areas booster shot is recommended due to the fact that mosquitoes are active all year there.