West Nile Virus (WNV)
Condensed version

**Presentation:** SUMMER, horse w/ fever, listlessness, acute onset hind limb ataxia and weakness

**Test of choice:**
- Mammals
  - CSF – mononuclear pleocytosis and elevated protein
  - Serology
- RT-PCR on CNS tissue is gold standard, all species
- REPORTABLE

**Rx of choice:** Supportive care

**Prevention:** Mosquito protection/control, Vaccination in endemic areas

**Pearls:**
- Multiple cases of acute deaths in birds can herald an outbreak in other hosts
- WNV – Flavivirus
- Reservoir – wild birds
- Vector – mosquitoes – esp Culex spp, although it has been isolated from ticks
- Chickens are can be infected naturally and develop antibodies
  - but do not show clinical signs.
  - Chickens are often used as sentinels to detect the presence of WNV

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**Classic Question(s)**

What is the clinical picture of a horse with West Nile Virus (WNV) infection?

What is the gold standard of diagnosis of WNV?

What kind of animal is the reservoir host of WNV?

What % of horses sick w/ WNV infection are likely to make a full recovery within 6 months?

Name three factors that improve the prognosis of a horse with WNV infection.

What event may herald an outbreak of WNV in people?