

## West Nile affects horses as well as humans

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**VALLEY CENTER, Kansas (KSN)** -- The potentially deadly West Nile virus is spreading, but one segment of the population can actually get a vaccine. Horses can be protected from the disease with a simple shot.

Ande Miller owns Hope in the Valley, an equine sanctuary that saves mistreated horses, and she has made the West Nile vaccine part of her yearly immunizations for each horse she receives. It's a simple step that can save these animals.

"When they come to the rescue and when they have their vet check, and all their vet care, and their teeth done, they're given their immunizations immediately because we're assuming that they haven't had them," Miller said.

"Some horses can recover from it, it's a very grueling treatment if they do, but most horses will end up with some really bad deficit and ultimately have to be euthanized," said Miller.

For humans, there is no vaccine available, and the Centers for Disease Control says efforts to create a human vaccine is likely several years away. But there are ways to protect yourself.

"Use a spray that has deet, if you're going to be outside during dusk or dawn, those are the highest peak times we see mosquitoes wear long sleeves or just try to stay in at those times," said Seth Konkel with the Sedgwick County Health Department.

Another preventative measure that will help animals and humans, is using mosquito dunks in standing water. Miller uses them in the horse water tanks. It kills the the mosquitoes and prevents them from breeding, in standing water.

Miller commented that while the mosquito dunks do work, the best preventative measure for horses is vaccination.

For more information on West Nile prevention click [here](#).

To find out more about Hope in the Valley, click [here](#).