



Animal &
Plant Health
Agency

West Nile fever

Know the signs

West Nile fever is an infection caused by West Nile virus and affects a variety of animals including but not limited to horses, birds and humans.

The disease is spread primarily by the *Culex* mosquito. It is not spread directly between animals.

In horses, clinical signs can include:

- Incoordination
- Limb weakness leading to stumbling
- Muscle twitches
- Recumbency
- Listlessness
- Sometimes fever

But, the combination and severity of signs is variable, and some horses will not show any signs at all.

Report it

If you suspect West Nile fever in your animals, you must report it immediately by calling:

- **03000 200 301 in England**
- **0300 303 8268 in Wales**
- **your local Field Services Office in Scotland**



Find out more information and how to report West Nile fever by visiting:
www.gov.uk/guidance/west-nile-fever

Information for vets:

Test to exclude West Nile virus in horses
www.gov.uk/government/publications/horses-west-nile-virus-test-wnv02/test-to-exclude-west-nile-virus-in-horses

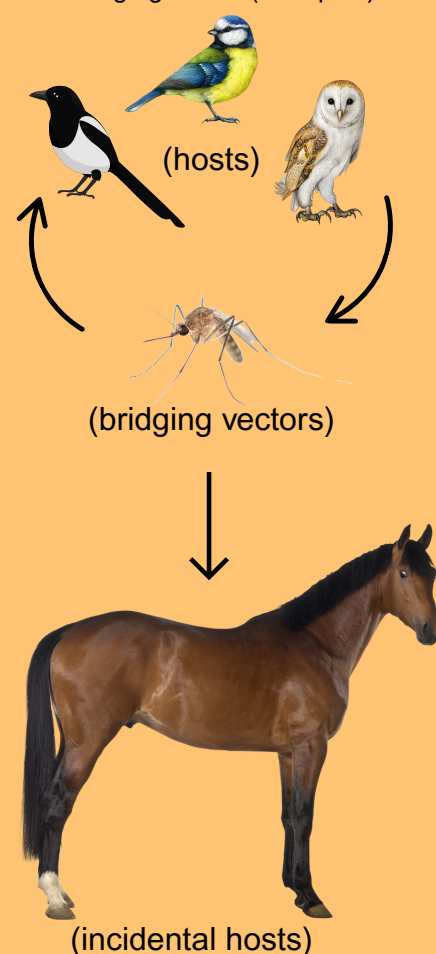


Primary transition cycle

The virus circulates through birds and mosquitoes. Birds are the most common carriers and may spread West Nile fever between countries when they migrate.

When an infected bird is bitten by a mosquito, the mosquito can transmit the virus to other birds and animals, spreading the disease further.

These animals do not pose a direct risk to public health. While humans can also contract West Nile fever, it is through the bite of the infected bridging vector (mosquito).



**West Nile fever is a
notifiable animal disease.
You are required by law to
report it.**