

WEST NILE VIRUS VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR RAPTORS

VACCINE INFORMATION

- Vaccine:** WEST NILE VIRUS INNOVATOR (ZOETIS). This product is labeled for equine use. DO NOT use the combined equine products that vaccinate for other viruses along with West Nile Virus.
- Route:** Intramuscular in the pectoral musculature on either side of the keel. Record the side of keel that the vaccine was given in, in case of a local vaccine reaction or muscle irritation.
- Volume:** 1ml for all birds greater than 500g and 0.5ml for birds less than 500g
- Frequency:** *If not vaccinated previous year:* Give one vaccine then repeat same volume in three weeks to booster.
If vaccinated previous year: One vaccine yearly (do not need to booster)
- Timing:** At minimum, give so that the final dose is received at least 1 month prior to start of known West Nile Virus season (April/May). Can be earlier than this as well. Vaccinating in the late winter would be ideal so that birds are protected by the spring.

VACCINE REACTIONS

Vaccine reaction in birds can range in clinical signs. Birds should be monitored for 1-2hr after vaccination and should not be flown during this time. Reactions are similar to what may be seen in an anaphylactic or allergic reaction and may include vomiting or regurgitation, lethargy, quiet behavior, erection of feathers on body or head, and in the worst case, death. If these clinical signs are seen, intervention may be necessary. Mild reactions can be treated with 1mg/kg diphenhydramine intramuscularly and subcutaneous fluids then monitoring. If more severe signs, the bird may need to be hospitalized after initial monitoring and support (diphenhydramine and fluids) for further supportive care depending on severity and level of concern.

QUESTIONS

Please contact the Janet L. Swanson Wildlife Hospital with any questions or concerns regarding the vaccination protocol, vaccination technique, adverse reactions, or any other questions. If there is an emergency, please call 607-253-3060. If not an emergent question, please email wildlifehospital@cornell.edu.