

Equine Motor Neuron Disease (EMND)



What is equine motor neuron disease (EMND)?

- Typically occurs in older horses that have been vitamin E deficient for >18 months
- Affects lower motor neurons, interfering with neurological input into muscles
- Similar to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS or Lou Gehrig's disease) in humans
- Risk appears to peak at 16 years of age, and not all horses deficient in vitamin E for extended periods will develop the disease.

What you can do to keep your horse healthy:

- Ensuring that horses receive adequate vitamin E through access to pasture or closely monitored vitamin E supplementation reduces the risk of developing EMND.

Signs

Muscle atrophy
Weakness
Weight loss

Transmission

Autosomal dominant
inheritance

Treatment

vitamin E supplementation

**If your horse needs medical care, contact the Large Animal Clinic at (530) 752-1393.*



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