



# West Nile Virus Equine Surveillance 2004

## *Summary and Challenges*

Dr. Ben Sun

Dr. Tim Boone

Dr. Pam Hullinger

Dr. Katie Wetherall



# Outline

---

- **Summary of equine WNV activity**
- **Issues / Challenges**
- **Short and Long-term Solutions**
- **Outstanding Issues**
  
- **Discussion**



# 2004\* Equine WNV Data

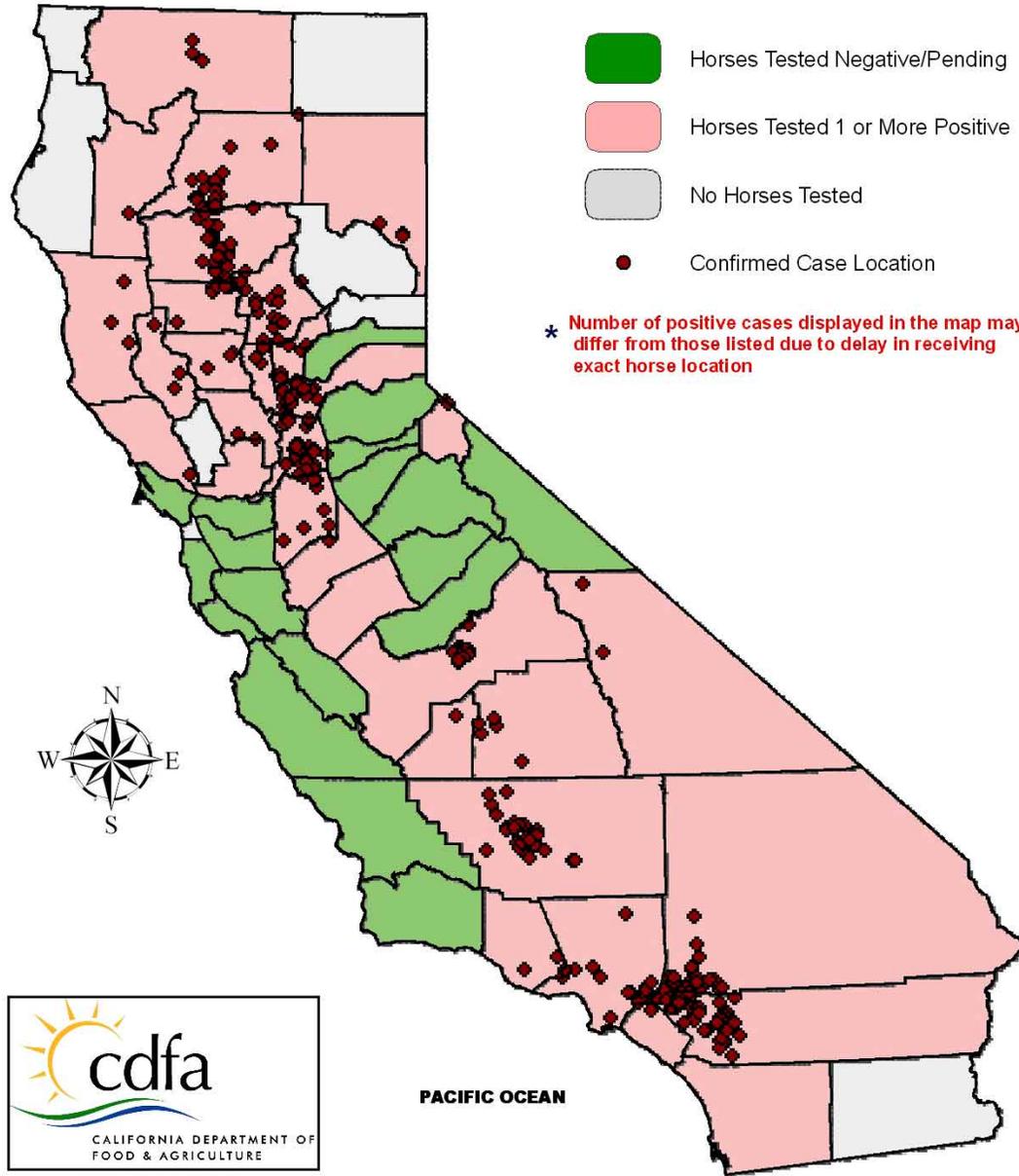
---

- **535 WNV infected horses (32 Counties)**
- **228 (43%) died / euthanized**
- **12 properly vaccinated, 113 improperly vaccinated, 392 unvaccinated, 18 unknown**
- **First positive finding of WNV in 3 counties**
  - **Alpine, Colusa, Inyo**

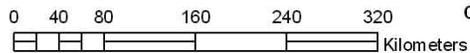


*\* as of Nov. 18, 2004*

# 536\* WNV confirmed cases as of November 18, 2004



ANIMAL HEALTH AND FOOD  
SAFETY SERVICES



Test results reported from the  
California Animal Health and  
Food Safety Laboratory

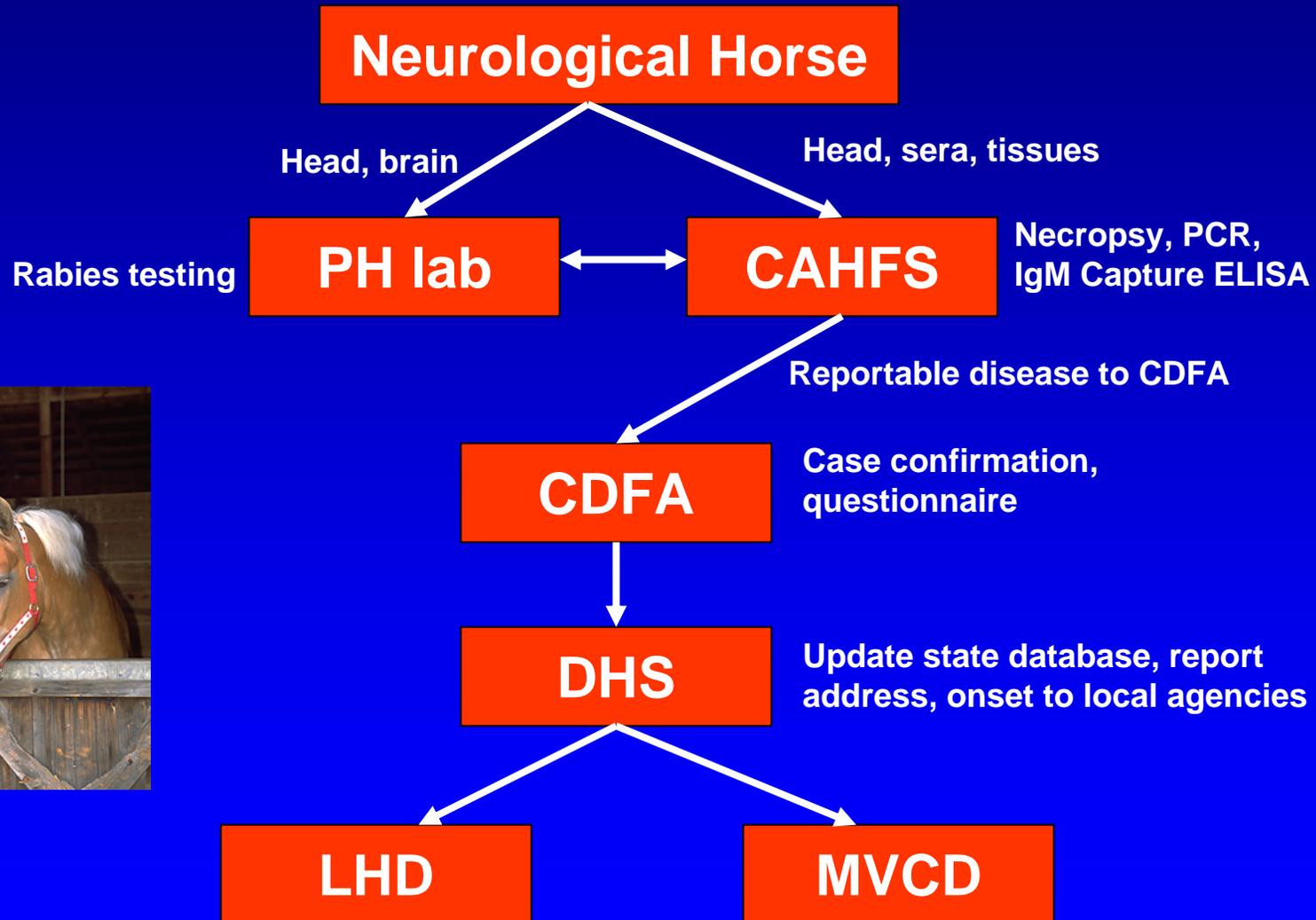
# Equine WNV Data

---

<b>Year</b>	<b># Positive</b>	<b># Tested</b>
<b>2002</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>52</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>205</b>
<b>2004*</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>1273</b>

*\* as of Nov. 18, 2004*

# Equine WNV Surveillance



# Equine WNV Issues - 2004

---

- **Incomplete data on sample submission form**
  - Lack of info to determine if met case definition and determine location of horse
- **Obtaining test results from commercial labs**
  - Less familiar with reportable disease issues
- **Under reporting by DVMs**
  - After seeing a few cases, may make clinical Dx only
- **Workload**
  - Data collection / analysis
  - Few dedicated staff
  - Timely data dissemination to local agencies
- **Rabies testing**
  - Many seropositive horses euthanized, no rabies testing, late Local Health Dept. notification, barriers to having heads submitted

# Equine WNV Solutions - 2004

---

- **Incomplete data on lab submission form**
  - Lack of info to determine if met case definition
  - Letters/communication to DVMs stressing the importance of completing lab form completely
  - Phone call to DVM/owners to get info and administer case questionnaire
- **Workload**
  - Data collection / analysis
  - Few dedicated staff
  - Timely data dissemination to locals
  - Central database, streamlined questionnaire intake, redirected staff, routine location reports to local agencies

# Equine WNV Solutions - 2004

---

- **Obtaining test results from commercial labs**
  - Less familiar with reportable disease issues
  - **Communication with private labs to assure timely reporting**
- **Under reporting by DVMs**
  - After seeing a few cases, may make clinical Dx only
  - **Letters/communication to DVMs**
  - **Subsidized testing costs**

# Equine WNV Solutions - 2004

---

## Rabies testing

- Many seropositive horses euthanized, no rabies testing, late Local Health Dept. notification, barriers to having heads submitted
- Outreach to veterinarians advising them of the state rabies regulations
- Multiple discussions with health departments / labs on protocols – significant differences among jurisdictions regarding notification / testing criteria
- Subsidized rabies testing / equine necropsy costs

# Outstanding Issues / Plans - 2005

---

- **Rabies testing**
  - Working with CCLHO for consensus on protocols
  - Possibly subsidizing specimen transport costs
- **Staffing / Workload**
  - Hiring additional dedicated staff
  - Increase outreach / education
  - Preparation for large outbreak
- **Data Dissemination**
  - Frequency
  - Level of detail
  - Method
  - Usefulness of data to local agencies?
- **Under reporting by DVMs**
  - Outreach, possibly subsidizing costs



# Contact Information

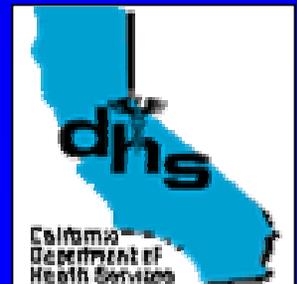
---

- **California Dept. of Food and Agriculture**

- [http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv\\_info.htm](http://www.cdfa.ca.gov/ahfss/ah/wnv_info.htm)
- 916-654-1447

- **California Dept. of Health Services**

- <http://www.westnile.ca.gov>
- 916-552-9740



# Questions / Discussion

