Animal Case Surveillance
Horses with encephalitis are routinely tested for WNV, WEE, and other mosquito transmitted diseases. Animal owners should consult a veterinarian if their animal is ill.

Dead Bird and Dead Tree Squirrel Surveillance
California began to test dead crows and related birds for WNV in 2000 and included dead tree squirrels in 2004. Reporting dead birds and dead tree squirrels helps identify where the virus is active in California. In 2006, WNV positive dead birds were found in 53 counties in California. State agencies, private organizations, and individuals participate in the surveillance program by reporting dead birds and dead tree squirrels.

To decrease exposure to mosquitoes and the infections they may carry:
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property to reduce mosquito breeding.
- Avoid spending time outside at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active.
- Apply insect repellent containing DEET, picaridin, or oil of lemon eucalyptus according to label instructions when you go outside.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

For More Information on West Nile Virus or to Report a Dead Bird or Dead Tree Squirrel visit:

www.westnile.ca.gov
or call 1-877-WNV-BIRD
An infected mosquito can bite any animal, but not all animals will become sick. The disease most often affects birds but may occasionally cause disease in other animals.

**Birds**

Wild birds serve as the main source of virus for mosquitoes. Infection has been reported in more than 225 bird species. Although many birds that are infected with WNV will not appear ill, WNV infection can cause serious illness and death in some birds. The most severe illnesses are seen among the corvid birds, which include crows, jays, ravens, and magpies.

**Squirrels**

Tree squirrels can contract WNV from mosquito bites. Symptoms include uncoordinated movement, paralysis, circling, lethargy, and death. Infection has been reported in western gray, eastern gray, and fox squirrels in many regions of California.

**Horses**

Like people, most horses bitten by mosquitoes will not become sick with WNV. However, of those that do, clinical signs may include stumbling, circling, hind leg weakness, inability to stand, muscle tremors, and death. A vaccine to prevent WNV infection in horses is available. Horse owners should consult with a veterinarian.

**Dogs and Cats**

Dogs and cats can be exposed to WNV in the same way as humans. However, these animals are very resistant to WNV and very rarely become ill. Concerned pet owners should consult with a veterinarian.