**Pigeon Fever**

Courtesy of:

**Cotati Large Animal Hospital**

8079 Gravenstein Hwy, Cotati, CA 94931

(707) 795-4356

[cotatila@att.net](mailto:cotatila@att.net|) |www.cotatilargeanimal.com

Gene Harlan, DVM| Calvin Dotti, DVM| Sally Venable, DVM| Emelie Roche, DVM

Hannah Jasperse, DVM| Kelsie Kennicutt, DVM| Hannah Case, DVM

**Pigeon Fever:**

What is pigeon fever you may ask? Pigeon fever is a bacterial infection caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* and is commonly found in dry, arid climates, such as California. This bacterium is found in the soil and is spread by flies. It most commonly causes external abscesses in the pectoral, ventral abdominal regions, or around the sheath/udder. Pigeon fever can also produce internal abscesses that can show up in horse’s kidneys, liver, and lungs.

**3 main forms:**

1)External (most common form)

2) Internal

3) Ulcerative Lymphangitis (least common form)

**Common Clinical Signs:**

* External swellings or suspect abscesses
* Decreased appetite
* Lethargy
* Fever
* Abdominal pain
* Weight loss

**What to do if you suspect your horse has pigeon fever?**

1. Call your veterinarian to develop a plan
2. Isolate your horse

**How to prevent it?**

* Control fly population
* Consistently use fly repellants, oil-based products work better than water based
* Minimize open wounds to prevent transmission
* Quarantine new horses and inspect them for any signs of infection