Jasper the chestnut quarter horse gelding looks very tired and doesn’t want to eat like he normally does. When you look closely at him, it looks like he might have a bite mark from an animal on his front leg.

What might be wrong?

Maxwell Smart is a cute haflinger pony. Normally he is full of energy, but after you gave him breakfast this morning, you notice that he is not moving as well as he normally does. He looks clumsy like he might fall over and he is moving stiffly and can’t pick up his feet very well. It has been pretty rainy this spring, and the mosquitos are nasty.

What might be wrong?

Jetson is a Clydesdale who is normally even tempered. Over the past week, you have noticed that he doesn’t want to eat his hay like he used to and he is behaving more and more strangely. Yesterday it he just walked straight into a tree like he didn’t even notice it was there. He is also calling to his pasture mates all the time.

What might be wrong?

Anna Banana is a sweet palomino mare who has developed a cough and a runny nose. She isn’t that interested in her dinner tonight. Her temperature is 102 but normally its 99. There are a couple other horses in the barn with similar symptoms.

What might be wrong?

TexMex a bay tobiano gelding is freaking out. His muscles are shaking and his eyes are wide and look scared. He doesn’t seem to want to eat and you are wondering if he can even open his mouth. He has a really high fever. You remember that a couple days ago, you treated a nasty cut on his hindquarters that might have been from a loose nail in the fence.

What might be wrong?

Leena is a grey dun mule who has been moving really unusually lately. When you watch her walk around the pasture, its almost like her back legs give out because they are week. Other times, though she seems fine. She used to have a very rhythmic walk, but now she has pauses and stutters in her movement. Your barn is near the woods and you know that occasionally racoons and opossums are seen near the horses.

What might be wrong?

Krypton the bay thoroughbred colt has a runny nose and a cough. His jaw and throat latch area is really swollen and he has a gross yellowish ooze coming from under his head. His temperature is around 103F.

What might be wrong?

You just received some bad news. Tony the Pony (a leopard spotted POA) had some bloodwork done which included a Coggin’s test. Even though he looks fine, you got a call from your vet that it came back positive.

What might be wrong?

Halloway a young, beautiful bay Hanoverian filly has a nasty cough and wheezes when she breathes. She moves stiffly and doesn’t have her usual floaty trot. Sadly, the barn where she was bred has had trouble with several of their broodmares not able to carry a foal to full term.

What might be wrong?

Jack-Be-Nimble, a black welsh pony that was doing great in the pony division on the East Coast in Maryland, just completed his summer season with his young rider. Now that the family are back home in Michigan, they notice that Jack has a fever, seems off or lame, and has had very loose manure for a few days.

What might be wrong?

Equine Encephalomyelitis (Eastern EEE, Western WEE, Venezuelan VEE)

Also known as

Sleeping Sickness.

West Nile Virus (WNV)

Equine Infectious Anemia Virus (EIA)

Rhinopneumonitis or

Equine Herpesvirus (Rhino/EHV)

Equine Influenza (FLU)

Stretpococcus Equi or Strangles

Tetanus

Rabies

Potomac Horse Fever

Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM)

Suggestions to help learn about equine diseases during a meeting.

Assign each member (or member pair) to research a different disease in their Pony Club manuals (check both the D and C level manuals)

Have members present on the diseases above and then as a group play a vet-detective game where you read a scenario on the first page and try to figure out what disease the horse might have.