



Pineview Veterinary Hospital Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I

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Spring Checklist

- Vaccinations
- Coggins
- Physical Examination/nutrition consult
- Dentistry
- Fecal examination
- Health Certificates for interstate travel
- Trailer safety

Inside this issue:

Interstate Travel	2
Changes in Parasite Management	2
Foaling	3

An Ounce of Prevention...

As the old adage goes, "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." This could not be more true when it comes to your horse's health. A proper Equine Wellness Program includes a combination of vaccinations, coggins test, physical examinations, fecal examination, and dentistry.

Now that the weather is getting warmer mosquitoes will unfortunately be coming back in full force. Therefore, it is critical that your horse receive protection from the mosquito borne diseases Eastern/ Western Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus. Here in the south-east these vaccines should be given twice yearly as normally our climate stays fairly mild during the winter. Rabies is also important for the human health risk. Last year there was a con-

firmed case of rabies in North Carolina. This vaccine should be administered once yearly. Other vaccinations such as flu, rhinopneumonitis and strangles are given based on your horses exposure to other horses.

It is important that your veterinarian administer these vaccinations. Not only does this routine visit help establish and maintain a healthy relationship with your veterinarian but they will be present should your horse experience a potentially life threatening reaction called anaphylaxis. Additionally, at Pineview, we are pleased to offer the Pfizer Animal Health Equine Immunization Support Guarantee on most vaccinations we administer. Pfizer Animal Health will support diagnostic and treatment costs up to \$5000 if a horse is properly vaccinated with their product by

a veterinarian and contracts the following: West Nile, Eastern/ Western/Venezuelan Encephalitis, Tetanus, or Influenza (flu).



Call our office today to schedule your spring boosters and have a happy and healthy spring!

The Importance of Physical Exams

A critical portion of our Wellness Program is an annual physical exam and nutrition consultation. This allows us the opportunity to get to know your horses, identify potential medical concerns, and discuss important issues such as nutrition and parasite management. Catching medical problems early can help prevent an emergency situation and save you money and stress. For example, "heaves", an aller-

gic airway disease, can be detected early before your horse is in respiratory distress and requires emergency care.

"50% off physical exams/nutritional consults..."

Discussing your horse's nutritional needs is also important in

keeping your horse healthy. Many conditions, such as laminitis, can be prevented and/or managed with proper nutrition.

For 2011, we will be offering 50% off physical exams/nutritional consults for those on the Equine Wellness Program (formerly the Preferred Client program.)

Interstate Travel



A health certificate is required ANY TIME you cross State lines with your horse.

The warm weather of spring is certainly welcome after the cold and rainy winter we have had this year. Along with this warmer weather many of you will be traveling to horse shows and trail rides. Not only is it important to make sure your horse trailer is safe and up to legal code, but it is important to make sure your horse has proper documentation.

Any time your horse crosses state lines they are required to have both a health certificate or passport and a current negative coggins. These must be obtained from a USDA Accredited Veterinarian. When obtaining a health certificate, we will perform a brief physical to check for signs of infectious

disease that may pass to other horses. Typically health certificates are valid for 30 days after issue. If you plan on traveling frequently, an Equine Passport is recommended. This is good for 6 months as long as your coggins is current. There are many states including South Carolina, Virginia, and Tennessee that accept the passport. For states that do not participate in the passport program, a 30 day health certificate is required.

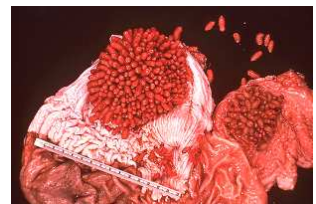
The coggins test was designed in the 1970s to test for Equine Infectious Anemia. This is a virus that causes a slowly progressive and often fatal equine disease. It is spread via biting flies and contaminated needles/blood. There is no cure for

the disease and no vaccine to prevent it. Currently horses that test positive must undergo a strict permanent quarantine or euthanasia. The only means we have of prevention is testing for the disease to minimize its spread. The highest chance of exposure is in congregations of horses such as horse shows and organized trail rides. This is why most events require proof of negative coggins test within the year. It is recommended that all horses have a yearly coggins test regardless if they travel or not, because flies travel and they spread the disease. Also, in the event of a hurricane evacuation you will need a coggins test for transport and identification. Your coggins test should accompany your horse any time you take it off the property.



Pinworms in feces.

Fresh fecal samples should be placed in a ziplock bag, kept cool, and brought to the clinic for testing.



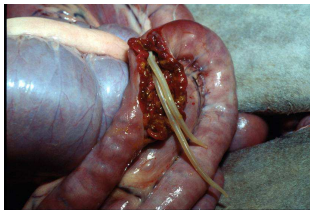
Bot larva in stomach.

Changes in Parasite Management

Times are a changing. Over the past few years we have started to see increased resistance to our current anthelmintics (dewormers). This means that despite deworming your horse may still be infested with parasites. Therefore, veterinarians are no longer recommending deworming horses every other month. The new recommendation is to deworm based on fecal egg counts (FEC) and appropriate pasture management.

Fecal egg counts allow us to specifically tailor the parasite management program to each individual horse. Just like people, horses are individuals and there are those that naturally shed more eggs (high shedders)

and those that don't (lower shedders). Low shedders will not require as frequent deworming as high shedders. Likewise, those horses with a low FEC will not require deworming as frequently so we are not putting unnecessary chemicals in the horse. In terms of resistance, we are able to determine which anthelmintics are effective on the farm and monitor trends in egg count to see if resistance is developing or going away.



Round worms in intestine.

In the south, parasite eggs on pasture are at their peak from September through April. There are some important and easy pasture management strategies including:

- Don't overstock pastures.
- Regularly dispose of manure, not in fields.
- Use feeders for hay and grain rather than off ground.
- Drag pastures only during summer months and leave unoccupied for 2 weeks.
- Keep foals and weanlings separate from yearlings to help prevent ascarid infection.

Parasite photographs courtesy of AAEP

Foaling 101

Spring is one of our favorite times of the year, not only because it is getting warmer, but it is foaling season!! The typical mare's gestation is around 11 months (340 days). During the long period of anticipation, the foal is developing and the mare's body is getting ready to give birth. We recommend all mares be vaccinated against rhinopneumonitis at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation. Rhinopneumonitis is a disease that has a high risk of abortion in mares, especially during late gestation. Additionally, mares should be vaccinated against Eastern/Western encephalitis, West Nile Virus, Tetanus, Influenza, and Rhinopneumonitis approximately 1 month prior to their due date. This gives the mare's body the best chance of passing protective antibodies to the foal.

A few weeks prior to foaling, you should get your mare adjusted to her foaling surroundings, be it a stall at night or a special paddock. Allowing her to adjust to her surrounds will make her more comfortable come foaling time as horses are flight animals. You will start to notice some bodily changes as the mare nears her due date. Her udder will start to fill and her milk quality will change from clear to a thick milky yellow. Her hind quarters will start to relax to become more like jello, and her tail head will become more prominent. Shortly before foaling, you may even notice a waxy substance on her teats.

Foaling usually takes place at night and process is divided into 3 categories.

Stage 1: The foal is moving into position. During this

Foaling Kit:

- Veterinary emergency contact information
- Flashlight with batteries
- Watch, paper, pencil for noting time
- Clean towels
- Dilute chlorhexidine or betadine
- Bailing twine to tie the placenta in a ball so the mare does not step on it
- Plastic bag for the placenta

stage the mare may act restless, paw, lay down, urinate and defecate more, kick at her abdomen, and sweat. This stage can last a couple hours.

Stage 2 begins when the water breaks. During this stage the foal is actually born and typically lasts 15-30 minutes. The mare may stand up, roll, and lay back down in an attempt to properly position the foal. The foal should appear to dive out of the mare with 2 front feet, then the nose/head, followed by the body and hind legs.

Stage 3 ends when the mare has passed the placenta.

The 1-2-3 rule is very important for the period after foaling. The foal should stand or at least be attempting to stand by 1 hour after birth. It should nurse within 2 hours, and the placenta should pass within 3 hours. It is important to make sure the mare has passed the placenta and save it in a plastic bag in a cooler for examination by a veterinarian. The placenta should NEVER be pulled as it can break. Any retained placenta is a serious medical condition that can lead to infection and laminitis. The foal's umbilicus should be dipped in dilute

chlorhexidine or betadine.

This solution is created by mixing 1 part chlorhexidine or betadine to 4 parts clean water. The umbilicus is then dipped 2-3 times daily for the first couple days. Finally, you should notice if the foal urinates and passes the first black tarry stool known as meconium.

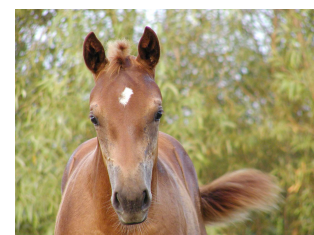
If the foaling progresses normally, please call the office during normal business hours to schedule a neonatal and post foaling examination. This exam should take place 12-24 hours after foaling. During this exam we will check the mare and foal for any abnormalities, as well as the placenta to make sure it is intact and normal. We will also draw blood to make sure the foal has received enough protective antibody from the mare's colostrum (first milk). This test is crucial for the foal's health as the first milk is the only source of protective antibody for the foal. If the foal has not passed the meconium we can also administer an enema to help it pass and prevent colic.

Typically we do not need to be present for the birth of the foal. That being said, please do not hesitate to call if

- Stage 2 is taking longer than 30 minutes or the foal is not properly positioned.
- You see a red bag rather than a white bag when the foaling process starts.
- The foal does not stand to nurse within 3 hours of birth.
- The placenta has not passed within 3 hours of birth.



The foaling process usually takes 15-30 minutes





Pineview Veterinary Hospital is a large animal veterinary practice meeting the needs of horses and food animals in Columbus, Brunswick, Bladen, and New Hanover Counties in Eastern North Carolina.

Our mission is to provide high quality service to our clients coupled with the most advanced and progressive veterinary care for our patients with an emphasis on preventive and herd health medicine.

On a Mission to Africa

April will be an exciting time for my husband and I as we travel to Mwandi, Zambia in Africa for a mission trip through Christian Veterinary Mission (CVM). We will be working with locals there to vaccinate and deworm cattle as well as conduct educational meetings on preventive care, nutrition, and calving. This opportunity will also allow us to tell those we come into contact with about Jesus and the salvation that He offers to everyone.

Please pray that we have safe travel and lives are changed for Christ. If this is something you would like to learn more about and/or financially support, please call the office or visit CVM's website (www.cvmusa.org).

If you are concerned about who will be here to care for your animals while I am gone, please don't be. Dr. Davis will be available April 11-19, and a long term friend and colleague, Dr. Brent

Scarlett, will be covering the practice April 20-24. Dr. Scarlett is the owner of a four doctor large animal practice in Asheboro, NC, and excels in both equine and cattle skills. Please welcome him should you need his services and look forward to an update from our trip in the next newsletter.

-Heidi Hart, DVM

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