

Sports Medicine

Lameness Exams

Lameness exams are like puzzle solving, which requires a methodical approach. When you contact us at PCAH about your lame horse, we will have one of our ambulatory veterinarians visit your farm. They will discuss your concerns and listen to your description of your horse's lameness. A complete examination will be conducted, which will consist of visualization of your horse's hoof wear, conformation, swelling, muscle atrophy (loss of muscle mass), etc. The veterinarian will palpate your horse and hoof test each hoof. Structures typically palpated are the back, joints, tendons, ligaments, and muscles. Once all structures have been palpated, your horse will be walked and jogged while the doctor watches for abnormal gait patterns. Then the veterinarian will flex each limb/joint to exacerbate the lameness. Once the lame limb has been identified, our veterinarian will perform a diagnostic nerve and/or joint block. After each block has been conducted, the horse will be jogged and flexed again to evaluate the lameness. After the location of the lameness is determined, digital radiographs may be recommended to see bony structures. If the source of pain cannot be identified via digital radiographs, it may be recommended to have a thorough ultrasound and/or MRI.

Arthritis Management

Horses can develop pain in their joints from routine use (especially performance horses), normal aging, or a traumatic event. If your horse appears to be sore, has joint swelling or reduced performance, call us at PCAH and we will have one of our veterinarians visit your farm for a lameness exam. Once the source of pain is located, there are different options of treatment to choose from:

Systemic therapies and examples:

- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (Bute, Banamine and Equioxx)
- Polysulfated glycosaminoglycans (Adequan)
- Hyaluronic Acid (Legend or Polyglycan)

Joint Therapies (Joint Injections) and examples:

- Steroids (Depomedrol)
- Hyaluronic Acid (Hylartin)

Poor Performance

If your horse is not performing at its best, let us help you determine the reason. Some common issues are often related to:

Lameness

Inflammatory Airway Disease

Exercise Induced Pulmonary Hemorrhage

Myopathies (Muscle Disorders)

Back Pain

Heart related issues, such as arrhythmias or murmurs.

Corrective Shoeing

We will work with your farrier to help him trim or shoe your horse appropriately. If you do not have a farrier, we can help find you one to fit your horse's needs. We offer digital radiography to assist your farrier to see the position of the bone in the hoof capsule.

Pre-Purchase Examinations

Are you looking at purchasing a new horse? It is our recommendation that you have a pre-purchase examination (PPE) on the horse prior to making such a large investment. What to expect with a PPE:

One of our veterinarians will meet you at the location of your choice. A complete examination will be conducted, including ocular, dental (minor unless consent to sedate for full dental examination), neurologic, cardiac auscultation, thoracic auscultation (along with a re-breathing examination) and musculoskeletal examinations. A lameness exam will also be conducted. It is sometimes recommended that digital radiographs be taken. Buyers also have the option for drug screening and EPM testing. Our veterinarian will then make his or her recommendation based on the comprehensive examination.

Wellness

At PCAH, we believe that your basic healthcare will lead you to the pathway of a healthy horse and the saying is, "stay proactive, not reactive"! We recommend:

Examinations

A thorough physical examination of your horse will be conducted. The veterinarian will check your horse's eyes, mouth, heart, lungs, GI, etc.

Vaccinations

EWT, WN, Flu/Rhino, Strangles and Rabies. Ask us about what vaccine schedule works best for your horse.

Fecal Examinations

A sample of fresh manure can be tested for intestinal parasites. Paste dewormer can be given based on the results of a microscopic examination of the feces.

Coggins Testing

A coggins test is performed to test for a virus called Equine Infectious Anemia. The virus infects the red blood cells of horses. Horses can contract the virus from horse fly and deer fly bites. The disease causes a high fever, anemia, lethargy, and limb swelling. Most horses do not show clinical signs; therefore, a coggins test is performed every 12 months. At PCAH, we offer two types of coggins forms. One is the traditional carbon paper form and the second is the digital coggins. The digital coggins is where we take photographs of your horse. The digital coggins takes less time to process, and we can email you the results. A negative coggins is required for interstate and intrastate travel.

Health Certificate

Health certificates are a requirement for interstate and intrastate travel. They have to be issued by a veterinarian. The doctor will examine your horse to determine if he or she is healthy and leaving from a disease-free premises. A negative coggins is required before a health certificate can be issued. At PCAH, we offer two types of forms: the digital copy that can be emailed or the carbon copy paper.

Nutrition

We offer nutritional consultations for your horse. Maintaining optimal body weight in your horse can sometimes be a challenge. If your horse is underweight, pregnant or overweight, let us help you find a quality feed program designed for your horses specific needs.

Contact us to have one of our veterinarians conduct a wellness exam on your horse.

Dentistry

Dental care is extremely important to your horses health and performance. Here are a few signs your horse may show when in need of a dental:

Weight loss

Poor performance

Head shaking

Increased salivation

Nasal discharge

Foul odor from the mouth and/or nose

When you call us at PCAH for a dental examination, one of our veterinarians will conduct an examination of your horse. Then your horse will be sedated (standing sedation). A speculum will be placed in your horse's mouth so that the dental arcade can be visualized so we can determine possible problems. Sharp points and malocclusions, which can affect performance and digestion, will be addressed. We do have power tools to grind down sharp points.

Reproduction

Need help producing that special equine baby? We offer a variety of services to help with your mare and stallion reproduction needs.

Mare fertility evaluations – A typical examination includes an ultrasound of the reproductive tract, visual cervical examination, and uterine swab to send to the laboratory for culture and sensitivity.

Stallion fertility

Artificial insemination with fresh, cooled, or frozen semen

Pregnancy check via ultrasound

Laboratory

At PCAH, we offer minor laboratory screening, such as:

Complete Blood Count

Blood Chemistry

Urinalysis
IgG Snap Test (foal)
Necropsy
Fecal Floatation

If we do not offer what your horse needs, we will send the sample off to the appropriate lab for testing.

Emergency

We offer 24 hour emergency care for our established clients and patients.
Call 478-474-3616

Imaging

Digital Radiography
We have a portable X-Ray unit that our veterinarians can take out into the field.
With this machine, you can have on-site interpretations of the X-Rays.

Ultrasound
Often times the use of ultrasound imaging is needed in diagnosis and treatment in certain situations. Our veterinarians have the capability of bringing this service directly to you if necessary.

Surgery

We offer a variety of surgeries that are conducted in the field. We refer our major surgeries to a referral hospital, and also patients that need to be intensely monitored under anesthesia. Some of our more common procedures include:

Castration
Enucleation
Dental Extraction
Lacerations