

Keystone Equine Vet Services



SPRING 2012

What is a Coggins anyway?

Everyone knows about the Coggins test, but how many people know what we are even testing for? The Coggins test was developed in the 1970s by Dr. Leroy Coggins for Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). EIA is an incurable, highly contagious viral disease of horses that is spread primarily by bloodsucking insects. The virus is in the same family as HIV and can be spread additionally by blood, saliva, milk and body secretions. Signs of EIA can range from mild exercise intolerance to fevers, anemia, lethargy and edema of the legs and belly. While there is a low incidence of EIA in the U.S., we do occasionally see positives. Due to the ease of transmission with biting flies, surveillance is important to identify any possible cases. A Coggins is required by state law when traveling across state lines. It is a required portion of a Veterinary Health Certificate. Most states in our



No more flimsy carbon copy papers to deal with!

area require a negative test within the last 12 months. Some states (mostly the northwest and Maine) and Canada require the test within 6 months. Farms and horse shows may also have the same requirement of a yearly Coggins test. This is part of a good disease monitoring program for the equine community. Keystone Equine utilizes what

is commonly referred to as the “digital” Coggins. It is the same test, just simply doing the paperwork differently. Your horse’s photos are actually printed on the test and you will receive your copy by email. No more carbon copies to deal with and if you lose yours, you can always print out a **new copy**.

Volume IV

March 1, 2012



New Ultrasound Probe Added to the Arsenal

2012 has started off with the addition of a new ultrasound probe to Keystone Equine’s list of diagnostic tools. The new probe is a linear probe that is capable of imaging at 13 megahertz. In the world of ultrasound, the higher the frequency the more detailed the image you receive. Although you do sacrifice the depth of what you are able to image. What this probe provides is high quality tendon and ligament imaging of your horse’s legs. I hope your horse will not need this tool, but in the event of an injury, we will be ready.

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Stable Biosecurity “The best defense is an active defense”

Establishing a biosecurity protocol for your horse farm is vital to the safety of all your equine athletes. Quite often there are risks faced every week but unfortunately are not recognized as a concern to the farm’s safety. Most everyone understands you should isolate new arrivals to the farm. When I question owners about this, I often find they have no ability to isolate a horse. Usually this is due to not having any additional room for isolation. Which brings up the big question – “Are there too many horses present for the facility?” Many questions like this need to be asked to fully develop security for your farm.

Feeling prepared and knowing you are prepared are two different things. Now you can put your biosecurity plan to the test. The University of Guelph in conjunction with Colorado State and the AAEP have developed a Biosecurity Risk Calculator. This 10 minute online survey will cover many aspects of your farm management and help you identify areas you may want to improve. It’s free, anonymous and can only be helpful. Remember that it is only as helpful as the honesty you put into your answers. Find it at www.equineguelph.ca/Tools/biosecurity_2011.php



LET'S BEAT THE BUGS!

Time To Think About Spring Vaccinations

Spring vaccination time is coming. Spring vaccines are split into two rounds to allow the immune system fewer diseases to recognize at one time and to reduce stress on the horse.

This is also a key time to update your Coggins test for the summer show season.

Plan your spring vaccines for April - May, before the bugs really get active.

Recommended Schedule:

Phase 1: Eastern & Western Encephalitis / Tetanus
West Nile
Rabies Virus
Coggins Test

Phase 2: Rhino / Influenza Virus
Botulism Toxoid
Potomac Horse Fever (if in your area)

2012 Keystone Calendar

Dates that Dr. Angstadt will not be available for emergency duties.

June 17 – Veterinarian for the USEA Horse Trials at Bucks Cty Horse Park

August 11 & 12 – Dr. Angstadt’s family reunion weekend.

September 9 -Veterinarian for the USEA Horse Trials at Bucks Cty Horse Park



Managing Your Mare

It's that time of year again - she is coming into heat. For some owners this is not a problem at all and for others it is nearly impossible to deal with. How mares act while in heat seems to vary like the colors of the rainbow. A difficult attitude can be one thing but some mares can experience pain and discomfort in late heat when large follicles have formed on the ovary.

We do have some options if you are having difficulties with your mare.

Regumate is a daily liquid progesterone placed on the feed that will keep the mare from coming into heat. Medroxyprogesterone is similar and is given as an injection every 3 - 4 weeks (also known as Depo-Provera in the human world). Alternatively, sterile glass marbles can be inserted into the uterus to trick the mare into thinking she is pregnant. Yes, that works, but can be a little less predictable at times.

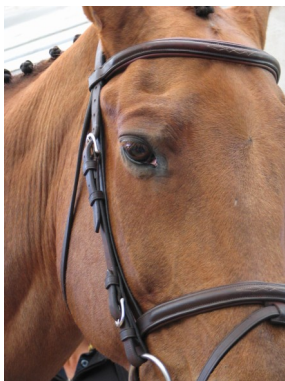
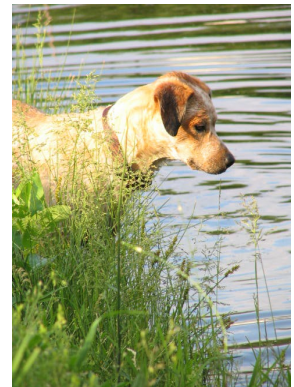
Call me if you have questions.



The heat is on!

Keystone Equine Vet is on Facebook

You can find us on Facebook at Keystone Equine Vet. Join us there for equine health related posts and news from the equine world. Additionally, you can ask questions to stimulate some owner interaction or post a picture of your latest equine outing!



**Plan.
Prevent.
Protect.**

*Vaccinate your horse
against disease.*

