

SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

March 11, 2013

Special points of interest:

- Spring Vaccines
- New diagnostic tool
- AAEP brief on equine insurance
- Spotlight on Botulism



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Spring Vaccines 2013 Reminder

Spring is arriving and it is time for vaccines. Consider this your reminder to schedule your appointment. Generally, I recommend vaccines be administered anywhere from mid-March to the end of May. Don't forget to make sure you have an up to date Coggins test as well so you are ready for the show season. Many appointments have already been scheduled so get your calendar out and let's get set up.



Vaccine Spotlight: Botulism

Botulism is a sickness caused by the bacteria *Clostridium Botulinum*. Botulism bacteria are found in the environment and need to grow in an oxygen-less environment. Most common areas of concern for a horse is where there is decaying plant material like the hay buildup under a hay rack or in round bale feeding situations. The bacteria themselves are not the problem but it is the ingestion of the toxin they produce. Botulism is in the same family as tetanus but it leads to a flaccid paralysis. Signs begin as difficulty swallowing and soon progress to a down horse that cannot get up, eventual paralysis of the respiratory muscles and death. Treatment can be attempted but is often very difficult, expensive and unrewarding. Luckily we have the highly effective, safe and economical Botulism Toxoid vaccine that is given yearly. It has always been my recommendation to use the Botulism Toxoid vaccine.

Better Parasite Control Is Proving Possible

Many clients committed to a better way of managing parasites in their horse and they are seeing the results.

I have spoken to many clients about better management on the farm for controlling parasites and

decreasing their horses exposure to parasite eggs. We combine this with spring and fall fecal egg count tests to monitor our need for anti-parasite medications. With good management, I am finding many horses that only

need to be treated twice a year.

I now perform the fecal egg counts in house for better quality control and consistency in testing. Ask me for help in forming a strategic anti-parasite plan for your farm.

Understanding Your Horse Insurance Responsibilities



Whether a horse is purchased for personal or business reasons, ownership represents a significant investment of time, money and resources. While no one likes to think about the potential for tragedy, horses seem to be prone to illness, accidents and injury. Should some peril befall your horse, nothing may ease the emotional burden, but wise planning can help reduce the economic impact.

*Facebook us at
Keystone
Equine Vet for
health related
posts and up to
date informa-
tion. You can
always ask
questions too.*

Insurance policies are legal contracts between the underwriter (the company) and the insured (horse owner). While individual policies vary so much from company to company and circumstance to circumstance, it is important to note is that each policy has its own terms, conditions and requirements, which may necessitate action from you, your veterinarian and your insurance company. To better safeguard yourself and your horse, follow these guidelines from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP):

- Read the contract thoroughly before you apply for coverage.

- Ask the insurance representative to explain any words, phrases or provisions you do not understand completely.

- Know your responsibilities. What is required should your horse fall ill, become injured or die?

- Understand any specific guidelines for emergency situations. A crisis is not the time to be trying to interpret your policy's fine print or to look for contact phone numbers.

- If euthanasia is recommended, know what steps must be taken in order for a claim to be valid.

- Make a list of questions to ask your insurance agent or company.

- Define your needs.

- Comparison shop. Besides cost, buyers should look at the longevity and reputation of both the agency and the insurance carrier.

Common types of coverage available for horses include but are not limited to:

- Mortality: Paid if the horse dies.

- Loss of Use: Paid on a percentage basis if horse is permanently incapacitated for its intended use or purpose.

- Major Medical: Like health insurance, offsets costs of veterinary care for catastrophic conditions.

- Surgical: Policies that cover only specific procedures such as colic surgery.

- Breeding Infertility: Covers stallions or mares for reproductive failure.
- Specified Perils: Includes any number of things such as lightning, fire or transportation.

For more information about equine insurance, ask your equine veterinarian for "Understanding Horse Insurance Responsibilities: Guidelines to Consider," a brochure provided by the AAEP in conjunction with Bayer Animal Health, an AAEP Educational Partner. Additional information is available on the AAEP's website www.aaep.org/horseowner.



Canine Vaccines

Keystone Equine Vet does offer dog vaccination for your farm pup. The yearly five way booster as well as Rabies vaccine are available for your canine companion, just ask Dr. Angstadt when you make your next appointment.

Dr. Angstadt Continues His Education

This summer Dr. Angstadt will begin taking classes for Equine Acupuncture at the Chi Institute in Reddick, FL. Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) is the basis of this well respected certification program. It is a five part class stretching over a six month period ending in December 2013.

In today's medical world, we are trying to focusing on treating the whole animal versus just a specific problem. An example of this

would be an injured joint. Instead of just using an anti-inflammatory as our treatment, we would include improving the internal joint environment with specific treatments or injections. At the same time, we can consider modalities like acupuncture to relax muscles and decrease stress on the rest of the body due to the pain response. Therefore we make for a more complete recovery with an overall healthier and happier animal.

Acupuncture therapy has been used for thousands of years for both humans and animals. The Chi Institute Program is well respected throughout many countries in the world. This will be a challenging endeavor but in the end will bring another new aspect to the care Keystone Equine Vet provides.

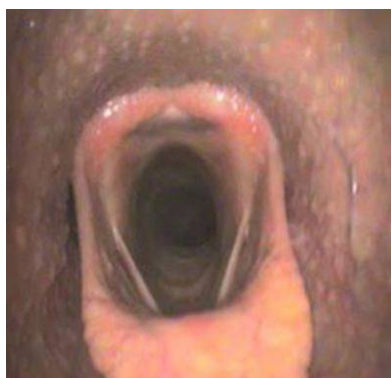
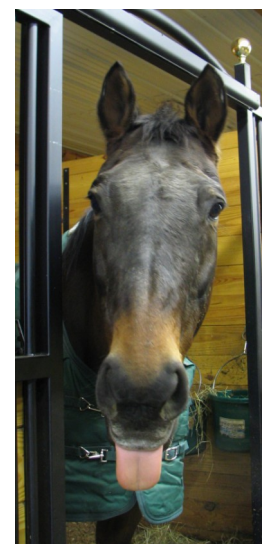


Newly added to the Diagnostic Arsenal: Endoscopy

Keystone Equine Vet has recently added a one meter long flexible endoscope to its arsenal of diagnostic tools. This long flexible scope can be passed up a horse's nose to allow for internal examination of the upper airway. "Scoping" is extremely helpful for examining the nasal passages, the throat area, and the trachea. Problems that can



be diagnosed include: nasal tumors, guttural pouch infections and laryngeal defects such as "roaring" or epiglottis entrapment. Biopsies of abnormal structures can also be sampled. In the future, the hope is to add a 3 meter long scope that would allow for evaluation of the stomach for the diagnosis of gastritis and stomach ulcers.



Normal equine airway



Left sided paralysis ("Roarer")