

KEYSTONE EQUINE VET NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 20, 2011

SPRING 2011

Spring Vaccination 2011

Vaccination time is rapidly approaching. Living in the Northeast exposes our horses to more potential threats than any other place in the country.



Our best defense is to plan a comprehensive preventive health program. We do not want to overwhelm a horse's system and therefore it becomes necessary to administer the vaccines in two rounds. Spring

vaccines should be completed between mid-March and the end of May.

We must also remember to update your coggins tests. A coggins test screens for the highly contagious and incurable disease Equine Infectious Anemia. A recent negative coggins is required for all shows and events, health certificates and most boarding farms. Keystone Equine uses digital coggins so that the documents will actually have your horses photos on them. We then have the ability to email you your coggins.

Keystone Equine's Vaccine Recommendation

Spring 1st Round: East and West Encephalitis
West Nile / Tetanus
Rhino / Influenza

-minimum of 2 weeks between –

2nd Round: Botulism
Rabies
Potomac Horse Fever (if in your area)

Fall
Rhino / Influenza
E&W Encephalitis / West Nile
(strongly recommended)

USEF NSAID Medication Rules

Many competitors may or may not know that the USEF rules for non-steroidal anti-inflammatory use are changing. NSAIDs include those drugs like Bute, Banamine, Equioxx and Surpass. Previously, you could use two NSAID's, recognizing the proper withdrawal times, in the five days leading up to a competition. With the only exception being you could not use Bute and Banamine simultaneously.

Under the new provisions, if a horse is treated with more than one NSAID in the five days prior to a competition, the person responsible must file a NSAID Disclosure Form with the proper show officials **before the competition**. A USEF Medication Report cannot be submitted after the fact.

On December 1, 2011 the rule change will become complete and only one NSAID will be le-

gally allowed to be used in a horse in the five days prior to competition. If you have any additional questions, please consult the medication rules section at www.USEF.org.



MEMBER

AAEP





*Every two month de-
worming is no longer
an acceptable plan...*

*Most important is
going back to proper
farm management.*

Proud Supporter Of



**Keystone Equine Veterinary
Services LLC**

Scott M Angstadt, DVM
1236 Easton Rd
Riegelsville, PA 18077
610-749-0488 Ph

KeystoneEquineVet.com

The Anti- Parasite Revolution

There is a lot of new talk on the deworming front. I have been lecturing on this subject for the last year. I thought I would try to give a short synopsis of the concepts we need to think about when planning a battle against parasites.

Every two month deworming is no longer an acceptable plan.

This type of plan actually helps speed the rate of resistance development. A dewormer kills all the susceptible parasites leaving the resistant ones. The more we kill the "wimpy" bugs the more we leave only the resistant ones to breed and continue on the species. We would prefer to leave some of the "wimpy" parasites around to dilute the genetic pool and slow resistance development.

In a herd, 80% of horses have a good natural resistance to parasites. It's the other 20% that is infecting the farm through their manure. We would like to identify these horses with fecal exams so we can plan a strategic deworming program. Those horses with good resistance, along with proper management, may only need deworming treatment 2 or 3 times a year.

Most important is going back to proper farm management. If a horse does not get exposed to manure infected with parasites, they can't get parasites. Research has shown that removing manure every 4 days from a horse's environment (no dewormer used) was more effective than deworming every 2 months. We need to go back to the old ways of keeping clean, well managed farms. Many items are in this list: cleaning pastures and turnouts, reducing stocking density, increasing pasture, rotating pastures, not spreading manure on your pastures. Dirt paddocks are an indicator that there are too many horses in that area.

Every farm is different and will need to develop its own plan. Right now I am suggesting fecal exams at spring and fall vaccination time. The fecal exams must be taken at proper times to get a true read of the horse's natural resistance. This time period depends on which dewormer was last used. For most dewormers you would wait at least 8 weeks, for ivermectin or Quest you would wait 12 weeks. I have farms that manage their farms very well and they have found the above information to be true. Consult with me if you have further questions.

Quarantine Concepts

Questions often arise as farm owners are faced with the reality of a new arrival to the farm. Concern is placed on those animals being transported for long distances or those with questionable histories such as coming from a sale barn. These animals may have been exposed to any number of diseases and they also have undergone significant stress which may have lowered their immune system.

Quarantine periods should be at least two weeks with three weeks being even better. Quarantined horses should ideally be housed in separate barns and turned out in separate pastures. Dedicated buckets, brushes and tools should be used only for those animals. These are best disinfected with dilute bleach. Barn personnel should work with these animals last after all other horses. Humans can

be a disease carrier from horse to horse so rules should be made to prohibit traffic between quarantined and farm horses.

