

## Spring Horse Newsletter

Spring is upon us! And with the longer days and warmer temperatures also comes a season of activity for our area horses. Whether you're moving cows and calves for branding, getting ready for rodeo or race season, or enjoying a warm day on the trail there are certain things you need to do this time of year to get your horse ready and keep them healthy.

### Spring Wellness Day

Wednesday April 20th will be our equine Spring Wellness Day. Dr. Erin Kennedy of Success in Motion Veterinary Services will be back in town at the Ridge



Riders rodeo grounds to offer dental services for horses and well as chiropractic services for dogs and horses. Cost will be roughly as follows:

- Routine Dental with Sedation \$165
- Advanced Dental with Sedation: \$225
- Pain Medication: \$20
- Chiropractic Adjustment: \$90
- If your horse needs extractions or additional dental care additional costs will apply.

In conjunction with this Dr. Poe will be available to help get your horse ready for spring with a special spring wellness package. The following services will be offered:

- Physical Examination: \$55
- Immunizations: 5 Way and West Nile: \$60.78
- Deworming (Panacur): \$25.00
- Fecal Flotation Exam: \$23.50
- Equine Screen (Complete Blood Count, Blood Chemistry): \$92.00, \$10.50 blood draw fee waived.

Package Discount (exam, vaccines, fecal exam, deworming): \$139.64 plus tax, would be \$164.28 if purchased separately.

Horses will be seen by appointment only so if you are interested please call and talk with Ashley to schedule for either Dr. Poe or Dr. Kennedy.

### Wet Spring = More West Nile?

It is feasible that with the large amount of rain our area received in the month of March and the fact that there is still standing water in places that this will be a heavy mosquito season. With an increase in mosquitoes there is the chance for an increase in West Nile Virus infections. We had one confirmed case near Almira last year in addition to a history of cases in the Coulee City area. This means that West Nile Virus is in our area and all unvaccinated horses are at risk. Remember, your horse doesn't need to leave your property to be exposed to West Nile. The virus-carrying mosquitoes will come to you. Our Spring Wellness Day is the perfect opportunity to get your horse caught up on its immunizations before it's too late.

### Zoetis Vaccine Guarantee

Did you know that our preferred equine vaccine manufacturer, Zoetis, has an Immunization Support Guarantee (ISG)? In essence, this guarantee means that if a horse that has been properly vaccinated by a licensed veterinarian with one of the qualified vaccines contracts the disease it was vaccinated against, the company will reimburse you up to \$5,000 in diagnostic and treatment costs. All products under the West Nile—Innovator<sup>®</sup> and Fluvac Innovator<sup>®</sup> line of vaccines are eligible for the Equine ISG. This includes



vaccines against the following diseases: West Nile, Equine Influenza, Equine Herpesvirus 1 and 4 (respiratory), Tetanus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, and Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis

### **Is Your Horse a Traveler?**

Don't forget, if you are traveling with your horse on the coming months certain paperwork is required. The states of Washington,



Oregon, and Idaho do not require Coggins test for horses to travel within those state's lines, but a current health certificate is needed. In addition, all horses crossing between states must have a current brand inspection. Your horses do not have to have a brand to have a brand inspection done. This basically serves as a proof of ownership document. Both Drs. Poe and Mark are accredited with the USDA to write health certificates and with the WSDA to provide brand inspection services. If you are traveling out of the Pacific Northwest and need a Coggins test, please keep in mind that up to two weeks may be needed to get all results and paperwork in order for you to travel.

### **Don't Fence Me In! Well, Maybe You Should.**

With the fresh green grass of spring comes the chance for nutritional upsets and colic, which is a broad reaching term for intestinal pain. Please remember to ease your horses onto pasture if they have been corralled for the winter and not allowed to graze as the grass has begun to grow. Don't just turn them out to free graze 24/7 without an acclimation period as their system will not be accustomed to the lush green grass. Rather, it is best to fill them up on their winter hay, turn out for an hour or so, and then bring them back to be corralled for the first few days. This prevents them from gorging on the lush grass, which in turn will help to prevent colic and other nutrition upsets such as laminitis (AKA Founder). If your horse is showing signs of colic (kicking

at their belly, rolling, off their feed, depressed, restless) or laminitis (reluctant to move, stiff gait, sawhorse stance or standing with feet bunched up underneath), please give our office a call so they can be treated as quickly as possible. It is not uncommon for horses to get a bit of diarrhea even with an acclimation period. As long as it resolves within 2 to 3 days no treatment is needed. If it lingers longer than that, medical attention may be needed.

### **Choosing the "Right" Dewormer**

It is a common question in the spring and fall as to which dewormer one should choose for their horse. It is an understandable question as there are literally dozens of deworming products on the market, many of which are the same active ingredient, just produced by different manufacturers. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find handouts from Colorado State University and Kansas State University outlining their recommendations as to choosing the best dewormer for your horse based on their risk factors. Both universities recommend running what is called a "Fecal Egg Count." This is a precise measurement of how many parasite eggs are in a certain amount of feces, which gives you and your veterinarian a better idea of how much of a parasite load your horse has. If you are interested in having a Fecal Egg Count done please bring in a fresh sample of feces for us to send to the Washington State University diagnostic lab. The cost for this service is \$30.

### **Emergency Contact**

We often get the question regarding after hours/emergency care. Drs. Poe and Mark do their best to provide consistent emergency care to our small and large animal patients. If you have an emergency after hours you can call our regular clinic number and it will forward to the after hours cell phone. Please leave a detailed message as all calls are screened. In the event that a doctor is not available to be on call we provide back up emergency service numbers for you to call.