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EQUINE HOSPITAL

Head to
Hoofbeats

Microchipping Your Horse

Kelsey M. Tanner DVM

Most horse owners are familiar with microchipping, the process of implanting a small chip encoded with an individual number that can be used to identify an animal. While it has been a long standing practice to microchip companion animals such as dogs and cats, it is becoming more and more prevalent in the equine world. A microchip allows for a more sophisticated method of identification of an animal than using tattoos, brands, or markings. Each number is unique and associated with only one animal, similar to a social security number for humans. Several equestrian organizations have policies that will eventually require all competing horses to be microchipped.

- **USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) and USHJA (United States Hunter Jumper Association)** are requiring microchip identification of all member horses as of December 1, 2017. Non-microchipped horses will be given a year-long grace period in which they can still show but cannot accumulate points or win money.
- **The FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale)** has required all horses registering for the first time to be microchipped since 2013. Horses registered before this are not required to be chipped.
- **Jockey Club** requires all registered foals born in 2017 to be microchipped. Currently a microchip is not required to race.

The microchip is a little bigger than a grain of rice, and the process of implanting it is simple. It is injected into the nuchal ligament half way between the poll and withers about two inches below the mane. This location ensures it does not migrate. The information associated with the chip is then registered with the appropriate company or breed/sport registry. This information can be easily accessed using a hand held scanner in order to identify the horse for competition, in disease outbreaks, or if horses become lost, stolen, or displaced. If a horse changes ownership, the seller can contact the microchip company to release ownership, and the new owner can register the horse under a new agreement with the company or breed/sport registry.

To schedule an appointment to have your horse microchipped or for questions, please contact our office. 🐾



**5th Annual
Spring Horse Expo**
Saturday, May 13
10am–2pm
Bartley Ranch

We are excited to bring you the 5th Annual Spring Horse Expo. Join us for a day of local horse organizations, local vendors, and breed and discipline demonstrations. Look for more information on participating groups and businesses on our Facebook page. If you are interested in having a booth or participating in the demonstrations, please email us at comstocklargeanimalhospital@yahoo.com. 🐾

Client Education Seminar:
The Importance of Equine Dentistry
Tuesday, April 4 • 6pm

Equine dental health is an integral part of your horse's overall well-being and performance. Join us for an in depth discussion on equine dentistry. We will discuss equine dental anatomy, issues that can affect your horse, and how these issues are addressed and maintained. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP to (775) 849-0120 or office@comstockequine.com by Friday March 31. 🐾



The Basics of Breeding

Kristi M. Ruby-Stone DVM

Thinking about breeding your mare this spring? There are many aspects to consider prior to beginning this endeavor. First, you need to select a stallion. Every mare and every stallion has conformational strengths and weaknesses. It is best to select a stallion that complements your mare and improves upon her weaknesses. It is also important to think about any genetic diseases that the mare and/or stallion may carry. Common diseases in Quarter Horses and Paint Horses include HYPP, Glycogen Branching Enzyme Deficiency (GBED), Polysaccharide Storage Myopathy (PSSM), and Malignant Hyperthermia (MH). Arabians

can carry Cerebellar Abiotrophy (CA) and Lavender Foal Syndrome. For more information on these diseases and other breed-specific diseases, please visit UC Davis Veterinary Genetics Laboratory at <https://www.vgl.ucdavis.edu/services/horse.php> or contact us at Comstock Equine.

Once you have picked the perfect match for your mare, it is time to start thinking about the breeding process. The natural breeding season in horses runs from about March to August; however, mares that are under lights starting in December can often be bred as early as February. Prior to breeding your mare, it is recommended and often required by the stallion owners to have a pre-breeding exam including a uterine culture and cytology. This will help to let us know if your mare has a clean uterus and is ready to be bred. This is ideally performed on the heat cycle one month prior to the desired breeding month. Ideally the uterine culture and cytology will be normal; however normal results cannot predict a mare's conception rate. Often, mares can have a normal reproductive ultrasound, normal culture, and normal cytology and still have difficulties conceiving.

Mares can be bred via live cover, fresh cooled semen, or frozen semen depending on the stallion's location and semen availability. Mares that are bred via live cover have a pre-breeding ultrasound and a uterine culture and cytology performed and are then taken to the stallion. They are usually bred every other day from the time they start showing heat until they are no longer teasing. They can also be scanned via ultrasound in order to determine the best time for live cover. Mares that are being bred via fresh cooled semen and frozen semen are best managed if they are left at the hospital. Fresh cooled mares are usually scanned once daily in the beginning of the cycle until they have a mature follicle at which point they may be scanned once or twice daily. Often times, we are only shipped one dose of semen from the stallion and need to ensure that the mare ovulates within 12-24 hours of being bred with fresh cooled semen for best conception rates. Therefore, mares must be closely managed and reproduction drugs such as Deslorelin or HCG are used in order to time the ovulation for when the semen arrives. Managing mares bred with frozen semen is more intensive. The frozen semen is shipped to the clinic prior to the mare coming into heat or in the very early stages of her heat cycle. The mares are scanned once daily early in the cycle. Once they are close to ovulating the mares are scanned every 6 hours to ensure they are bred within 6 hours of ovulation. Timing ovulations can also help decrease the need for late night breeding.

For a typical breeding with a relatively fertile mare who is of ideal age (5-12 years old) being bred to a stallion with overall good quality semen, an owner can expect pregnancy rates of 55-70% per cycle with chilled semen and 35-50% per cycle with frozen semen. Not all mares will take on the first cycle, and often 2 or 3 cycles may be needed in order to get her pregnant. Just as in humans, you often will not know if your mare will have fertility issues until you try to breed her. Difficult mares are mares that retain fluid in their uterus prior to breeding, have cervical issues, and/or have post mating endometritis. These mares are managed much more intensely and often require multiple uterine lavages pre-breeding and post-breeding. Neither the semen nor the embryo can survive in a uterus that has any amount of fluid in it. Overall, breeding your mare can be a very exciting endeavor. However, there are many aspects that need to be considered other than just picking out your favorite stallion. The cost of breeding your mare is highly variable depending on her specifically and how many cycles it takes to get her pregnant. The cost is also ongoing during her pregnancy, as there will be multiple ultrasounds and vaccines that are required during that time. We look forward to working with you and your mare and answering any questions you may have. 🐾

SPRING VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

AREA	DAY	DATE
Washoe Valley 1	Tues	7-Mar
Washoe Valley 2	Sat	11-Mar
Washoe Valley 3	Wed	22-Mar
Washoe Valley 4	Tues	4-Apr
Washoe Valley 5	Thurs	6-Apr
Washoe Valley 6	Sat	15-Apr
SW Reno 1	Wed	8-Mar
SW Reno 2	Sat	18-Mar
SW Reno 3	Thurs	23-Mar
SW Reno 4	Tues	28-Mar
SW Reno 5	Wed	5-Apr
SW Reno 6	Sat	22-Apr
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 1	Thurs	9-Mar
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 2	Tues	21-Mar
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 3	Thurs	6-Apr
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 4	Sat	8-Apr
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 1	Tues	7-Mar
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 2	Thurs	23-Mar
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 3	Wed	29-Mar
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 4	Sat	25-Mar
Spanish Springs 1	Thurs	9-Mar
Spanish Springs 2	Tues	21-Mar
Spanish Springs 3	Sat	25-Mar
Spanish Springs 4	Wed	5-Apr
North Valleys 1	Thurs	16-Mar
North Valleys 2	Tues	28-Mar
Golden/Sun Valley	Tues	14-Mar
Golden/Sun Valley 2	Wed	29-Mar
Carson/Dayton 1	Tues	14-Mar
Carson/Dayton 2	Thurs	30-Mar
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 1	Thurs	16-Mar
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 2	Tues	4-Apr
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 1	Wed	15-Mar
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 2	Thurs	30-Mar
Palomino Valley 1	Mon	20-Mar
Palomino Valley 2	Mon	10-Apr
Gardnerville 1	Mon	13-Mar
Gardnerville 2	Fri	7-Apr
Minden 1	Mon	27-Mar
Minden 2	Fri	14-Apr
Stagecoach/Silver Springs 1	Fri	24-Mar

PRICE LIST	
Farm Call	17
Physical/Wellness Exam	20
West Nile - EWT*	40
Rhino-Influenza*	30
Strangles I.N.*	35
Rabies*	21
Deworm*	17-24
Deworm (Foal/Mini)*	14
Fecal Exam	23
Clean Sheath	35
Sedation- Starts At	45
Coggins	32
Health Certificate (First 2 Horses)	45
Health Certificate Additional Horse	15

*Tax not included. Prices of dewormers vary depending on what deworming strategy your horse requires.

A 10% discount will be applied to owners with 5 or more horses, and the farm call fee will be waived. Not applicable with any other discount.

Manufacturer's Immunization Support Guarantee: The vaccine company will pay for diagnostic & treatment costs up to \$5000.00 for your horse if he or she has been vaccinated by one of our doctors and becomes infected by West Nile, Influenza, Tetanus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and/or Western Equine Encephalitis within one year of vaccination. This guarantee excludes Strangles and Rhino virus.



**YOUR HORSE
NEEDS A
DENTAL EXAM
EVERY YEAR!**




Dentistry Pricing

We are offering our dentistry prices at \$160 plus sedatives. Sheath cleanings may be added for the discounted price of \$35. We also offer a Dental Health Maintenance Plan. Any horse that has dentistry performed annually will receive the discounted price of \$100 plus sedatives.

This plan is ideal for performance horses or horses that require more frequent dentistry. The frequency a horse requires dentistry varies from horse to horse. We recommend horses up to the age of 5 years have a dental exam every 6-12 months, horses 5-15 years old every 12-18 months, and over 15 years every 6-12 months.

To best service our clients, all of our doctors have received extensive training and continuing education opportunities in the field of equine dentistry.

The discounted price includes:

-  Sedation Examination
-  Full Mouth Speculum Examination
-  Dental Equilibration (performed with hand & power tools)

\$160.00

\$100.00

COMSTOCK EQUINE HOSPITAL

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Health CHRONICLE

