

FALL 2017

# Comstock

## EQUINE HOSPITAL

*Welcome*  
*Dr. Sakai & Dr. Booth!*



Dr. Russ Sakai is a native of Visalia, California. He received his Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from University of California Davis. Following an internship at Colorado State University, he returned to University of California Davis for a surgical residency. Dr. Sakai and his fiancé Suzanne moved to Northern Nevada

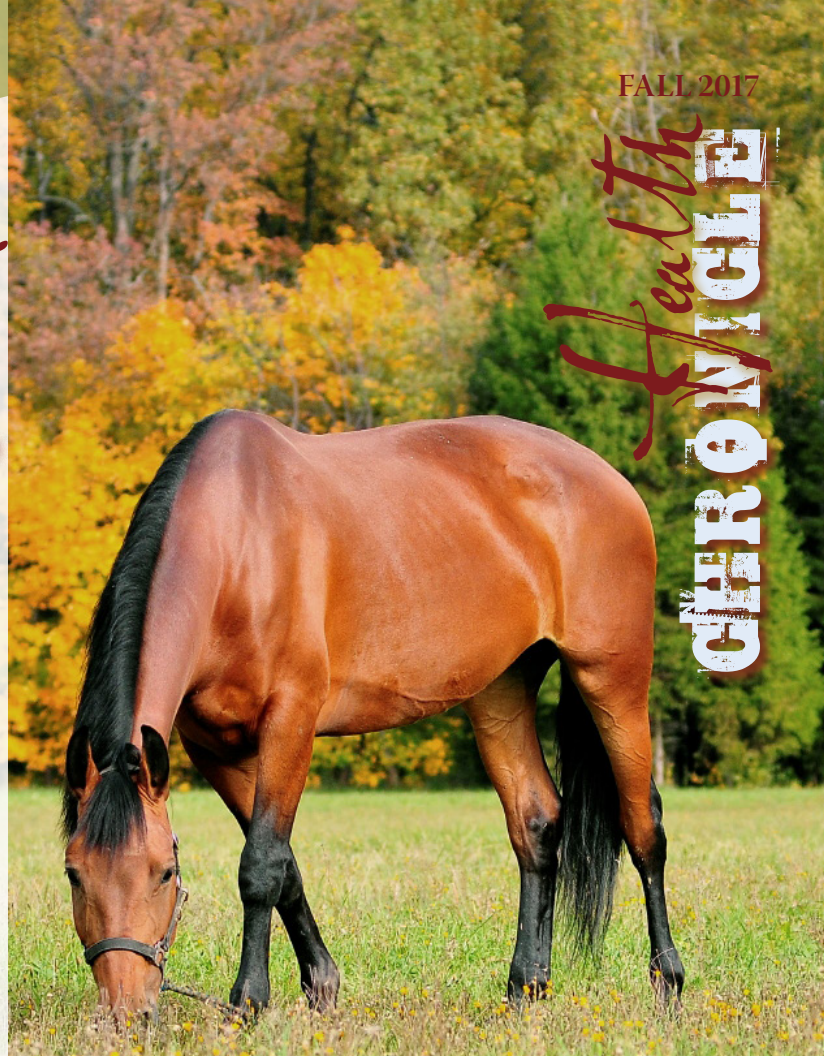
with their dogs Finley and Sawyer and Suzanne's eventing horse Scout. His professional interests include non-invasive surgery such as laparoscopy and arthroscopy, colic surgery, upper airway surgery, lameness and sports medicine. In his free time, Dr. Sakai enjoys fly fishing, backpacking, and skiing.



Dr. Alyson Booth is a native of Clearwater, Florida. She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from The Ohio State University and is joining us for a year long equine medicine and surgery internship. Her professional interests include sports medicine and lameness. In her free

time, Dr. Booth enjoys riding, hiking with her yellow labrador Posey, and snowboarding.

*Welcome Dr. Sakai & Dr. Booth!* 🐾



*Health*  
**CHRONICLE**

### CLIENT APPRECIATION BBQ

**Tuesday • September 26 • 6pm**

We have the best clients, and we would like to take a moment to thank you for entrusting us with your horse's veterinary care. As a token of our appreciation we would like to invite you to a BBQ dinner at Comstock Equine Hospital. Dr. Sakai will give a talk on equine lameness and current treatment modalities. Please **RSVP** by Friday, September 22 by phone (775) 849-0120, email ([office@comstock-equine.com](mailto:office@comstock-equine.com)) or on our Facebook event page. 🐾



Find us on:  
**facebook.**



# Fire Safety & Emergency Response

*Alyson D. Booth DVM*

As you know, fire season is currently upon us, and it is time to make sure that you are prepared. Remember fires and other natural disasters happen at a moment's notice. It is important when you leave your house, your animals are safe and ready in case of an emergency because sometimes you won't have the opportunity to return home.

## Things to think about:

- 1.) Make sure your house has a defensible space. The best way to keep your horses is in a defensible space enclosed by metal panels. Metal panels tend to not burn nearly as easily as vinyl fencing, wood, PVC piping etc.
- 2.) It is important to not to store hay in close proximity to your horses due to how easily it catches fire.
- 3.) Leave halters in accessible places so a disaster crew can find them if needed. While we do not recommend leaving halters on horses, if you do, make sure it is leather as nylon burns easily and can melt into the hair and skin. Consider leaving name identification tags in your horse's mane or on their stalls.
- 4.) Consider microchipping your horse so that it can be easily identified if it gets loose or is found at large.
- 5.) Make sure your horses can easily load onto a trailer. It is important in an emergency situation that horses load easily. If your horse is being difficult for the disaster crew, they may have to leave your horse behind in a defensible area and move on to other horses down the street. Practice trailer loading now to make it easier later. If you do not have a trailer, have a plan in place for transporting your horse to safety whether it be a friend or hauling company.
- 6.) Make sure there is a sign somewhere that states how many animals are on the property, dogs and cats included, as well their locations.

You may be required to evacuate immediately depending on your proximity to the fire. If you are not at home, a disaster crew will be responsible to make sure your horses are either safe or evacuated. It is also important to remember that after the fire is out, there are three stages of safety that will occur before you can return to your home and any pets left behind. The first stage includes a team of professionals who enter to make sure that all electrical wires are safe or removed. Next, heavy equipment operators come in to remove anything that is hazardous. Finally, tree trimmers come in to assess trees and remove any dead or potentially dangerous trees. If you are not able to return immediately, a certified disaster crew will be in charge of feeding and watering your animals.

Finally, one of the most important things to remember is not to panic. You will be running on adrenaline and be extremely stressed. But remember, if you have to evacuate, your timeline is minutes, sometimes even seconds; therefore you must have a plan and remember what your plan is so you can act quickly. Fires are dangerous and on some levels one can never be ready. However you can be prepared, and you can have a plan. Now is the time to make sure everything is in order and you are as prepared as possible for an emergency. 🐾

# A Strangles Debriefing

*Christy A. Copeland DVM*

By now most people in the Northern Nevada horse community are aware of the strangles outbreak that occurred this past year. Most people are wondering where we are with the disease and what we should do now. Recently people have learned a lot about strangles, but there is also some bad information out there in the rumor mill. We would like to take this opportunity to answer commonly asked questions as well as provide you with preventative strategies to reduce your horse's chance of becoming infected.

## **What Causes Strangles and What are Signs That My Horse Might Have It?**

The bacteria *Streptococcus equi* subsp. *equi* is the causative agent for strangles. This bacteria colonizes the horse's tonsils and pharynx commonly resulting in infection and abscessation of the lymph nodes surrounding the throat. Subsequently *S. equi* received the common name strangles describing when these abscesses get too big and cut off the airway. In rare cases infection can spread and cause abscesses in other parts of the body including the intestines, kidneys, lungs, spleen, or liver. This type of strangles is either called Bastard Strangles or Metastatic Strangles.

Clinical signs for strangles include: fever (temperature greater than 101.5°F, although commonly greater than 103.5°F), enlarged lymph nodes, yellow mucoid nasal discharge, sore throat with difficulty eating, increased noise when breathing, and signs of general lethargy including inappetence. Metastatic strangles will show signs of weight loss, colic, fever, and may or may not show signs as described above with classical strangles.

## **How is Strangles Transmitted?**

The two routes of transmission for *S. equi* are either direct horse to horse contact or through contaminated surfaces. Horse to horse contact can occur from a horse that is systemically ill or through a "healthy" carrier. Transmission through contaminated surfaces can happen for example with horses sharing water buckets or tack.

## **How do You Diagnose Strangles?**

Strangles is diagnosed by bacterial culture or PCR which test for strangles DNA. It is unlikely to have a positive test within the first 72 hours from the onset of fever. Which diagnostic chosen depends on where your horse is in the disease process. Your veterinarian may want to run bloodwork to look for signs of a bacterial infection as well.

## **How is Strangles Treated?**

Treatment varies greatly depending on location of abscesses and severity of disease. A majority of cases resolve with supportive care. If your horse is diagnosed with strangles it is important to monitor them closely and schedule recheck and follow up visits as needed. The goals of treatment are to eliminate the infection and provide future immunity to the disease while preventing further disease spread. Once your horse is clinical sign free, you will need 3 negative PCR nasal swabs or pharyngeal washes to ensure the horse is not a carrier.

## **What is a Carrier?**

A carrier is a horse that continues to shed *S. equi* post infection despite appearing clinically normal. This can happen weeks to years post infection and happens to a small percentage of horses who recover from strangles. They harbor and continue to shed the bacteria from their guttural pouches. Detection of a carrier and treatment is usually done via endoscopy after a positive PCR test.

## **How To Prevent Spread?**

Practicing good biosecurity is important in preventing the spread of disease. These practices include: Isolating new horses that are coming into the barn for 3 weeks before introducing them to the main population. Isolate any sick horses especially those with fever or signs of strangles. When horses present with signs of strangles perform twice daily monitoring of rectal temperatures to help identify new cases. Do not share tack or equipment. Do not move horses to or from farms where strangles has been identified. Disinfect water buckets and shared areas.

## **Should I Vaccinate?**

Strangles is considered a risk based vaccine and is not one of the core vaccinations. If you think your horse is at risk for contracting strangles, vaccination should be considered. However, the strangles vaccine can be unpredictable in efficacy (vaccinated horses can still get the disease) and have adverse reactions. Strangles vaccination is not recommended for 2-5 years after an outbreak situation due to risk for adverse reaction. It is recommended that a strangles titer is drawn prior to vaccination to determine if it is safe to vaccinate. A horse will need an initial vaccine, then a booster in 2-3 weeks and yearly after that. Vaccination should only be performed on healthy afebrile horses without nasal discharge.

## **Is the Outbreak Ongoing?**

The large number of strangles cases being seen has greatly decreased. However, your horse is still at risk. We commonly see multiple cases of strangles yearly. While risk for strangles has decreased, good biosecurity is still recommended to prevent your horse from contracting strangles. 🐾

## FALL VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

AREA	DAY	DATE
Washoe Valley 1	Sat	9-Sep
Washoe Valley 2	Tues	12-Sep
Washoe Valley 3	Wed	27-Sep
Washoe Valley 4	Thurs	26-Oct
SW Reno 1	Wed	13-Sep
SW Reno 2	Thurs	5-Oct
SW Reno 3	Wed	18-Oct
SW Reno 4	Sat	21-Oct
SW Reno 5	Sat	28-Oct
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 1	Tues	19-Sep
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 2	Thurs.	12-Oct
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 3	Sat.	14-Oct
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 1	Thurs	21-Sep
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 2	Sat	30-Sep
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 3	Tues	3-Oct
Spanish Springs 1	Tues	19-Sep
Spanish Springs 2	Sat	23-Sep
Spanish Springs 3	Wed	4-Oct
North Valleys 1	Thurs	21-Sep
North Valleys 2	Wed	11-Oct
Golden/Sun Valley 1	Wed	13-Sep
Golden/Sun Valley 2	Thurs	28-Sep
Carson/Dayton 1	Thurs	14-Sep
Carson/Dayton 2	Wed	4-Oct
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 1	Thurs	28-Sep
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 2	Wed	25-Oct
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 1	Tues	26-Sep
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 2	Wed	18-Oct
Palomino Valley 1	Mon	2-Oct
Gardnerville 1	Fri	20-Oct
Minden 1	Fri	13-Oct
Stagecoach/Silver Springs 1	Fri	6-Oct

GREAT BASIN CLINIC PRICES	
Farm Call	17
Physical/Wellness Exam	20
Flu Rhino	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 \$30.




**\$160.00**

We are continuing the 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 horses that require more frequent dentistry.

**\$100.00**

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*)



## COMSTOCK EQUINE HOSPITAL

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# Health CHRONICLE

