

Comstock

EQUINE HOSPITAL

SPRING 2024

Heal the
CHRONIC



Equine Chiropractic Service Now Offered

Beginning in March, Dr. Terenzi will be offering animal chiropractic services! She has completed her schooling through Options for Animals School of Animal Chiropractic and is excited to offer this service to both our Comstock Equine and Great Basin Equine clients and patients!



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Vitamin E Deficiency

Elisabeth M. Lau DVM

Vitamin E deficiency is an extremely common but often underdiagnosed condition in horses, donkeys, and mules. Vitamin E is an antioxidant that helps maintain normal nerve and muscular function as well as promotes a healthy immune system. The most common source for Vitamin E in a horse's diet is fresh green grass. However in our high desert climate, the majority of our horse populations are on dry lot. Vitamin E is not stable long term causing decreasing levels in stored hay.

There are several common diseases associated with Vitamin E deficiency including Equine Motor Neuron Disease (EMND) and Sporadic Exertional and Non-exertional Rhabdomyolysis ("Tying Up"). EMND is caused by the degeneration of the motor neurons that control skeletal muscles. Horses with EMND often have loss of muscle mass and weakness. In severe cases, we have seen horses, donkeys and mules be so weak that they have difficulty standing. Not all horses that are deficient in Vitamin E will show clinical signs. We believe this has to do with the age and duration of the Vitamin E deficiency as well as possible genetic predisposition. Rhabdomyolysis is severe muscle cramping that occurs during or after exercise. This condition is extremely painful and in severe cases can be life threatening.



Vitamin E levels can be measured with a blood test submitted to UC Davis. Once a horse has been diagnosed with Vitamin E deficiency, the next step is to provide proper Vitamin E supplementation. Many feed and supplement companies use synthetic Vitamin E because it is more stable. However, only natural alpha-tocopherol is shown to be the most bioavailable and absorbed. We recommend horses receive 1000-2000 IU for a 1000lb horse per day. Elevate W.S. and Elevate Maintenance from Kentucky Performance Products and the Vitamin E supplement from Platinum Performance are excellent sources of natural alpha-tocopherol Vitamin E.

What to expect when your mare is expecting

Lingna Horton, DVM

Congratulations! Your mare is due soon! Now what? Frequently, mares foal out without any complications or assistance needed. You may go out to find a new foal already standing and nursing. But what if it isn't? What if something isn't right?

Mares are pregnant for an average of 11 months (330 - 345 days), but the exact duration of pregnancy can vary between mares. If your mare has previously foaled, you can use her previous pregnancies to estimate when she may foal out. In the last month of pregnancy, pay close attention to her udder development. The udder engorges with milk ('bags up') about two to four weeks prior to foaling. She will produce a waxy, honey-like secretion (waxing up) up to four days before foaling. Calcium test strips are available commercially to test her milk calcium content; a sudden increase in calcium indicates foaling is imminent. The muscles of the tail head and buttocks will relax and soften 7-19 days before foaling.

As she enters the first stage of labor, she may act restless, uncomfortable, or mildly colicky. She may get up and down repeatedly. This stage lasts 1-3 hours and ends with the rupture of the allantoic membrane and a rush of placental fluids (water breaks).

Stage two is the presentation of the foal. The foal should be covered in the amniotic sac, a translucent creamy white to yellow membrane. Foals normally present through the birth canal front hooves first with their nose between their legs in a diving position. If they are not in a correct position, it may be difficult or impossible for the mare to foal unassisted. Stage two should last no longer than 30 minutes and ends when the foal is delivered. If your mare does not make any progress in the delivery, this is an emergency and a veterinarian should be called. Sometimes, instead of seeing the amniotic sac, you may see a dark pink, red or burgundy colored structure. This is called a red bag delivery and is caused by the premature rupture of the chorioallantois, the structure responsible for providing the foal with oxygen. This requires immediate intervention. The membrane should be cut open so that the foal can breathe, and a veterinarian should be called immediately.

The last stage of labor is the expulsion of the placenta. The placenta should pass within 3 hours and be saved in a plastic bag or a clean bucket for your veterinarian to evaluate at the post-foaling exam. If the placenta has not passed within 3 hours, it is considered retained and is an emergency. A retained placenta can quickly become infected causing fever, sepsis and laminitis.

Once the foal has arrived, if the umbilical cord has not broken during the delivery, it should break on its own and does not need to be cut. The foal should stand within an hour of birth and should nurse within 2 hours. Allow the mare and foal time to bond undisturbed but be prepared to intervene if the mare displays aggressive behavior towards her foal. The first milk, called colostrum, is important for the foal to consume in order to ingest antibodies and other nutrients to start their immune system. This needs to be consumed within the first 24 hours of life. Foals should pass their first manure (called meconium) within 12 hours of birth; this first manure is usually sticky and dark. Colts should urinate within 6 hours of birth and fillies should urinate within 12 hours.

A routine post foaling examination should be performed 12-24 hours after birth. The veterinarian will perform an IgG test to ensure the foal received adequate colostrum. A full physical examination will be performed on the mare and foal. In the days following, monitor your new foal for lethargy, hot or swollen joints, swelling or heat from the umbilicus, a decreased appetite, or increased respiratory rate or effort. We are happy to help you with your mare and new foal!



SPRING VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

Area	Day	Date
Washoe Valley 1	Mon	4-March
Washoe Valley 2	Thurs	14-March
Washoe Valley 3	Fri	29-March
Washoe Valley 4	Tues	16-April
SW Reno 1	Wed	6-March
SW Reno 2	Fri	15-March
SW Reno 3	Mon	1-April
SW Reno 4	Thurs	25-April
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 1	Tues	12-March
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 2	Fri	3-May
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 1	Thurs	7-March
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 2	Tues	19-March
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 3	Tues	23-April
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 4	Thurs	2-May
Spanish Springs 1	Fri	8-March
Spanish Springs 2	Tues	19-March
Spanish Springs 3	Wed	27-March
Spanish Springs 4	Wed	8-May
North Valleys 1	Thurs	14-March
North Valleys 2	Mon	15-April
Golden/Sun Valley 1	Wed	13-March
Golden/Sun Valley 2	Thurs	25-April
Carson/Dayton 1	Tues	12-March
Carson/Dayton 2	Mon	25-March
Carson/Dayton 3	Wed	17-April
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 1	Wed	13-March
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 2	Mon	25-March
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul	Thurs	21-March
Palomino Valley 1	Mon	11-March
Palomino Valley 2	Tues	26-March
Palomino Valley 3	Fri	26-April
Stagecoach/Silver Springs 1	Tues	2-April

SPRING CLINIC PRICING

Farm Call	40
Physical/Wellness Exam	40
Core Innovator with Rabies	60
EWT WN Innovator	56
Vetera Gold (EWT, West Nile, FR)	95
Flu/Rhino	48
Rabies	30
Strangles	53
Deworm	33
Deworm (Foal/Mini)	29
Fecal Exam	26
Clean Sheath	60
Sedation- Starts At	70
Coggins	50
Health Certificate	45
Health Certificate Additional Horse	30
EECVI (6 month health certificate)	110

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 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 1 year of vaccination. This guarantee excludes Strangles & Rhino virus.**



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

Dentistry Pricing

We are offering our dentistry prices at \$225 plus sedatives. Sheath cleanings may be added for the discounted price of \$58.

We are continuing the Dental Health Maintenance Plan. Any horse that has dentistry performed annually will receive the discounted price of \$175 plus sedatives. This plan is ideal for horses that require more frequent dentistry.

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)



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Health CHRONICLE

