

# Comstock

## EQUINE HOSPITAL

### Equine Dentistry FAQ's

*Stephen C. Damonte DVM*

#### ***How often should I have my horse's teeth floated?***

This is a very common question. The answer depends on each individual horse. For the most part, annual dental exams and maintenance can be the best way to manage your horse's dental needs.

#### ***Will this wear out his teeth if they are floated every year?***

No. Annual dentistry by a trained professional can help extend the life of the teeth. By maintaining the teeth in optimal occlusion and performance, overloading of some teeth will be minimized reducing excessive enamel loss.

#### ***How do horses in the wild survive without dentistry?***

Wild horses survive very well on the range as do most horses that have the luxury of year around pasture. These situations are what the horse has evolved and adapted to over millions of years; what is different in most of our domesticated horses is the type of feed and genetic selection. Stabled horses are usually fed harvested forage (hays) and grains which alter the natural masticatory motions of the mouth and lead to the formation of enamel points. As enamel points become sharp, they can cause trauma and discomfort to the soft tissue of the mouth. Domesticated breeding of horses selects for desired traits like speed, size, and color at the expense of oral anatomy which can lead to malocclusions and abnormal wear of the teeth. Also, wild horses are not

asked to perform with a bridle or bit that applies pressure to the cheeks.

#### ***Will my horse be sedated for this?***

Yes. Sedation allows us to fully examine and perform procedures with the least amount of discomfort for your horse. To optimize my horse's dental health and oral comfort, I need to have my horse's teeth examined once a year.

#### ***Do I need to call an equine dentist?***

Technically there are no "equine dentists" if you use the definition compared to human dentists. Who can and should perform equine dentistry depends on the state in which you live. In Nevada, licensed veterinarians or licensed veterinary technicians under the supervision of a licensed veterinarian are the only people legally allowed to perform equine dentistry including hand floating.\*\* Not all licensed veterinarians perform equine dentistry so it is important to use an equine veterinarian who offers this service. All of the veterinarians at Comstock Equine Hospital take great pride in our training, skills, and experience and stay current by attending annual continuing education courses in equine dentistry. I hope this helps answer your equine dentistry questions. Please feel free to call our office to talk with one of our veterinarians or visit our website at [comstockequine.com](http://comstockequine.com). 🐾

\*\*Nevada Revised Statutes 638.008



SPRING 2016

4th Annual  
Health  
Chronicle



### 4th Annual Spring Horse Expo

Saturday, May 21st

10am – 2pm

Bartley Ranch Horse Arena

We are excited to bring you the 4th Annual Spring Horse Expo. Join us for a morning 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](mailto:comstocklargeanimalhospital@yahoo.com). 🐾







## Can We Prevent Injuries In Our Equine Athletes?

*Shane M. Miller DVM*

If you open any horse magazine today, you will find success stories of tendon, ligament or joint related injuries. You will also notice the plethora of treatments for these conditions. One of the hottest topics in both human and equine athletes is regenerative medicine and how it can help to restore an injury to almost normal. Despite the huge advancement in regenerative medicine techniques, there is something even better... PREVENTION. While it is impossible to control every situation, there are some very important things that might help minimize injury.

Conformation, or how your horse is put together, plays a huge role in how our athletes move. It also plays a huge role in how stress and strain is absorbed by the musculoskeletal system. For the most part we cannot control the conformation of horses, but we try to identify issues and ways to help modify them. Think of the horse's legs like this: the bones are rods and the muscles, tendons and ligaments are springs. If the bones are not straight, the pressure applied to the joints and the "springs" apparatus will not be even thus making them more susceptible to injury. Horses can compensate for a lot of imperfections, but if you want to minimize the potential for injury, do not ask too much from your crooked legged horse. There is something to be said for the state-

ment "Form to Function" in our equine athletes.

Hoof care is another extremely important area that has to be addressed on a regular basis. The hoof is like the foundation on a house; if it has problems or issues, everything above it will suffer. Hoof and shoe imbalances are a major contributor to lameness. The hooves should be trimmed and/or shod on a regular basis (every 5–8 weeks generally). Side to side balance and toe angle must be correctly aligned to the horse's pastern conformation. Regular evaluations by your farrier are crucial to the soundness of your horse. Your veterinarian can help determine the proper toe and heel angles and verify correct medial to lateral hoof balance with radiographs of the coffin bone. Factors that influence how your horse's feet grow and wear include nutrition, housing, surface, and moisture. Keeping your horse's feet in proper care is paramount if you expect your athlete to perform at his best.

Careful examination and feeling your horse's legs before and after every ride can help identify abnormal heat or swelling. Another area that often comes up with injury prevention is supportive leg wraps. They are just that, supportive and protective. They do not negate a significant amount of load placed on the limbs, but they can be protect from interference. The wraps that are

most supportive extend below the fetlock joint in order to act as a sling and reduce hyperextension.

It is also import to remember good nutrition is key not only for healthy soft tissues and joints but for the engine that makes them go. Proper nutrition including protein, fiber, carbohydrates, fats, vitamins and minerals are essential for the building blocks of healthy structures in any body. "Garbage in, garbage out" also pertains to our equine athletes. A great quality hay and addition of a balance of above supplements, pending activity level and individual requirements, will ensure your horse is absorbing the correct micronutrients for his skeletal needs.

A conditioning program tailored to your horse's discipline is crucial to gain the appropriate strength and fitness level needed. If your horse's conditioning is not in-line with the discipline's exertional requirements, injury is soon to follow. A proper warm-up of walking (10–15 minutes minimum) is essential to allow the musculoskeletal system to receive adequate blood flow and increase the elasticity of soft tissues before you start your workout. Gradual, steadily increasing work with direction and purpose will strengthen the body without over-stressing it. The cardiovascular and respiratory system can be conditioned in a 6–8 week period, but the musculoskeletal system will often take longer. The most conservative approach is to add 10% more time at a specific gait each week. A proper cool down (10–15 minutes at a walk) after workouts is also a must. Exhaustion is one of the most common causes of injury. Giving your horse time off to recover allows the body to adapt to the loads that have been placed upon it. The equine musculoskeletal system is an ADAPTIVE system so periodically taking a "cross training" approach to your workout (mixing it up and doing something different) is another fun way to increase strength and fitness in your equine athlete.

One area that is often overlooked is footing. It is not easy to change but careful attention to this aspect of training can pay big dividends in your horse's soundness and longevity. Uneven deep footing is a perfect recipe for soft tissue injury. It is very important to maintain your own arena footing and promise yourself never to ride in bad footing even if it means loading up from a show and going home. There are many resourses available that discuss building the correct footing, moisture content to help absorb concussive forces and correct maintenance of particular riding surfaces.

Addressing the points discussed above and early recognition of the subtle signs of an injury BEFORE it becomes severe cannot be stressed enough. What is better than a successful rehab from a tendon or ligament injury ...one that does not happen at all!!! 🐾

## SPRING VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

AREA	DAY	DATE
Washoe Valley 1	Tues	3-Mar
Washoe Valley 2	Sat	7-Mar
Washoe Valley 3	Wed	18-Mar
Washoe Valley 4	Tues	31-Mar
Washoe Valley 5	Thurs	2-Apr
Washoe Valley 6	Sat	11-Apr
SW Reno 1	Wed	4-Mar
SW Reno 2	Sat	14-Mar
SW Reno 3	Thurs	19-Mar
SW Reno 4	Tues	24-Mar
SW Reno 5	Wed	1-Apr
SW Reno 6	Sat	18-Apr
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 1	Thurs	5-Mar
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 2	Tues	17-Mar
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 3	Thurs	2-Apr
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 4	Sat	4-Apr
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 1	Tues	3-Mar
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 2	Thurs	19-Mar
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 3	Wed	25-Mar
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 4	Sat	28-Mar
Spanish Springs 1	Thurs	5-Mar
Spanish Springs 2	Tues	17-Mar
Spanish Springs 3	Sat	21-Mar
Spanish Springs 4	Wed	1-Apr
North Valleys 1	Thurs	12-Mar
North Valleys 2	Tues	24-Mar
Golden/Sun Valley 1	Tues	10-Mar
Golden/Sun Valley 2	Wed	25-Mar
Carson/Dayton 1	Tues	10-Mar
Carson/Dayton 2	Thurs	26-Mar
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 1	Thurs	12-Mar
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 2	Tues	31-Mar
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 1	Wed	11-Mar
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 2	Thurs	26-Mar
Palomino Valley 1	Mon	16-Mar
Palomino Valley 2	Mon	6-Apr
Gardnerville 1	Mon	9-Mar
Gardnerville 2	Fri	3-Apr
Minden 1	Mon	23-Mar
Minden 2	Fri	17-Apr
Genoa 1	Fri	27-Mar
Stagecoach/Silver Springs 1	Fri	20-Mar

PRICE LIST	
Farm Call	15
Physical/Wellness Exam	20
Rhino-Influenza	29
West Nile - EWT	39
Strangles I.N.	32
Rabies	21
Deworm	17-24
Deworm (Foal/Mini)	14
Fecal Exam	23
Clean Sheath	30
Sedation- Starts At	45
Coggins	30
Health Certificate	35
Additional on H.C.	10

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

