

COMSTOCK LARGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Health
CHRONICLE



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Thank you Michelle, Natalie, and "Midnight" Anderson; Alex and Theresa Benna; Stacey and "Brazil" Collier; Anya and "Cory" Getman; Susan, John, and "Sophie" Hargrove; Tara and "Bullet" Linderman; Dana, Robin, "Sid", "Manny", and "Trailer" Trimble; and M'lissa, Dan, "Princess", and "Frosty" Wilkins for sharing their photos with us.

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FALL 2010

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Way to Go!

Ashlin and Hayley Bowen of Breakaway Farms did very well in competition this year. Ashlin won 6th in the Jimmy Williams Classic at Pickwick on **Osilvia**. She also won the 6 year old Qualifier Class and the 1.20m Jumper Class and earned Champion in the 1.15m Jumper Class at the Oregon High Desert Classic on **Osara**. Hayley earned a 2nd place in the 1.20m Jumper Class at Pickwick and a 2nd place in the 1.30m Low Junior/ Amateur Owner Jumper Class at the Oregon High Desert Classic on **High Top**. She earned a 2nd place in the 1.10m Jumper Class on **Por Avion**.

McKaila Cecil trained by **Deborah Johnson of Reno-Tahoe Equestrian Centre** earned Top 5 in Saddle Seat Equitation and Purebred Country Pleasure on **Inkredible Heat**. She also earned Reserve Champion in Purebred Western Pleasure and Horsemanship in the 13 and Under Class on **TA Aurora Bey**.

Ashley Dotson achieved great accomplishments this year in the National Reined Cow and Cutting Horse Association. In March, Ashley won the \$15,000 Amateur Cutting on **Bank it in Heaven**. She won the Buckaroo Class and the Youth Class on **Chicinic** in June. At the Western Nevada Cutting Horse Association competition in July, Ashley won the Youth Class and the Ladies Class on **Heaven's Little Gina**.



Cody Hedlund was named to the National Youth Cutting Horse Association Hall of Fame. He qualified on his horse **Shut Up and Cut**.

Sisters **Allison and Marissa Picinnini** took top awards at the Nevada Junior Livestock Show. Allison won Grand Champion Steer at a weight of 1256lbs, and Marissa won Reserve Champion Steer at a weight of 1420lbs.

Ciara Viola earned her Bronze Medal and Third Level Reserve Champion on **Landitos** at the California Dressage Society Junior Show in Rancho Murieta, CA. She earned High Point Junior on Landitos at Dressage in the Sierras held at Franktown Meadows Equestrian Center. Ciara also earned High Point Junior on **Mandarin** at the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the California Dressage Society April show. 🐾



Welcome Dr. Myers!



Please welcome the newest member of our team, Sadie B. Myers DVM. Dr. Myers is a 2010 graduate of Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine, and she joins us for a one year internship in equine medicine and surgery. Dr. Myers was born and raised in Winnemucca, Nevada. She was very successful in the collegiate rodeo circuit at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo while maintaining an impressive grade point average. Her professional interests include sports medicine, general surgery, and reproduction. When she's not working, Dr. Myers enjoys roping and spending time with her fiancé, Clint and their two German Shorthair Pointers, Duke and Reggie. We are very excited to have Dr. Myers join us this year. 🐾

Not Quite Sand Castles...

Sadie B. Myers, DVM

Here in the dry, arid northern Nevada desert our horses’ gastrointes-
tinal tracts (GIT) can be subjected to a variety of insults. Sand colic,
or the ingestion and accumulation of sand within the intestines, is
one of many causes of colic in the horse and can be a very serious
problem. “Colic” is anything causing abdominal pain. Signs of
colic may be subtle, such as horses lying down more often, lethargy,
decreased appetite or decreased water intake. More serious signs
of colic include: looking at the flanks, repeated attempts to lie down,
rolling, pawing and stretching out.
With sand colic, in addition to the typical signs of colic, horses may
experience loose stool or diarrhea due to the abrasive nature of the
sand as it passes through the GIT causing inflammation and damage
to the bowel wall. A poor hair coat, poor body conditioning, and
even observation of sand in the feces may also be indicative of an
underlying problem.

Tools to Diagnose Sand Colic
Physical Examination and Auscultation: *using a stethoscope
to detect abnormal GI sounds along the ventral abdomen (swooshing
noise similar to waves on the shore).*

Float Feces in Water: *placing a small amount of feces in a plastic
bag or sleeve with water will cause any sediment or sand to separate
and sink to the bottom.*

Radiographs: *abdominal radiographs are sensitive for detection of
sand in the GIT due to different opacities (normal soft tissue versus
sand/mineral).*

- Tips to Prevent Sand Colic**
- Feed horses on rubber mats, ground feeders with a base, grassy
pasture or raised feeders to prevent the intake of sand with each
meal.
 - Ensure adequate water intake to prevent dehydration and aid
normal GI motility.
 - Feeding psyllium (*an oral supplement*) 1 week out of each month
or 1 day each week. Psyllium is a laxative product which serves to
draw water into the GI tract; it then forms a gel and aids in pas-
sage of sand and sediment through the GI tract. Products con-
taining psyllium include: Sandclear, Assure, Equi-aid and many
others.
 - Have your veterinarian perform regular physical exams.

*If you have any questions, or suspect your horse may be at risk for sand ingestion or colic,
please give us a call. We are happy to discuss all of your equine needs.* 🐾

Shockwave Treatment in
Horses for Lameness

Shane M. Miller DVM Dipl. ACVS

Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT)
has become an emerging new technology for
treating musculoskeletal problems, soft-tissue
injuries and bone injuries in horses. ESWT is a
non-invasive therapy used to stimulate healing,
return horses to their level of activity following
injury and to minimize recurrence.

Contrary to what the name implies, shock-
wave therapy does not use electrical pulses but
rather high-energy acoustic pulses much like
sound waves that pulse to a specific site within
the injured tissue. This mode of action reduces
inflammation, stimulates new blood supply
and bone growth, and provides an immediate
analgesic effect thus accelerating the healing
process.
EWST has been used in horses for the last
8-10 years. There have been many advances
in equipment since its inception (i.e. we now
“focus” the shockwave pulses to a desired depth
to allow for a more precise therapy). There
have also been many clinical research projects
evaluating the efficacy of ESWT when used on
various conditions yielding very good results.
These results include a significant improve-
ment in lameness scores and reduction in clini-
cal signs (inflammation reduction and local
pain relief) in an arthritis model.

ESWT is used to treat suspensory ligament
damage, bowed tendons, stress fractures in
bone, navicular pain, soft tissue damage, sore
backs and degenerative arthritis. The number
of treatments required depends on the struc-
ture that is injured and severity of damage.
Typically 3-4 treatments are most common.
The procedure is very well tolerated. The
horse is sedated; the area to be treated is clipped
to provide good contact; a contact gel is applied
to the horse’s skin; and the hand unit is applied
to deliver the shockwave pulses. The treat-
ment typically takes 4-7 minutes.
If your horse is suffering from a lameness
condition, consider shockwave therapy as a
potential therapeutic option to get your horse
back on track, performing again and minimize
the potential for reinjury. 🐾

| PRICE LIST | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Vaccine Clinic Farm Call | 15.00 |
| Physical/Wellness Exam | 20.00 |
| *Rhino-Influenza | 29.00 |
| *Strangles I.N. | 32.00 |
| West Nile Innovator | 32.00 |
| West Nile + EWT | 39.00 |
| Deworm (Ivermectin) | 17.00 |
| Deworm (Foal/Mini) | 14.00 |
| Deworm (Quest) | 22.00 |
| *Routine Fall Vaccinations | |

A 5% discount will be applied to owners with 5 or more horses.

| FALL VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE | | |
|------------------------------|-------|-----------|
| Area/Location | Day | Vacc Date |
| Washoe Valley | Tues | 14-Sep |
| Washoe Valley | Sat | 18-Sep |
| Washoe Valley | Thurs | 23-Sep |
| Washoe Valley | Wed | 29-Sep |
| Washoe Valley | Thurs | 14-Oct |
| Washoe Valley | Sat | 30-Oct |
| South Reno | Wed | 15-Sep |
| South Reno | Tues | 21-Sep |
| South Reno | Sat | 25-Sep |
| South Reno | Thurs | 7-Oct |
| South Reno | Wed | 13-Oct |
| South Reno | Sat | 23-Oct |
| Spanish Springs | Fri | 17-Sep |
| Spanish Springs | Thurs | 30-Sep |
| Spanish Springs | Sat | 9-Oct |
| Spanish Springs | Tues | 12-Oct |
| Lemmon Valley | Thurs | 16-Sep |
| Lemmon Valley | Wed | 29-Sep |
| Lemmon Valley | Sat | 2-Oct |
| Mt Rose/Pleasant Valley | Thurs | 16-Sep |
| Mt Rose/Pleasant Valley | Tues | 28-Sep |
| Mt Rose/Pleasant Valley | Tues | 5-Oct |
| North Valleys | Wed | 15-Sep |
| North Valleys | Thurs | 30-Sep |
| North Valleys | Tues | 12-Oct |
| Golden/Sun Valley | Wed | 22-Sep |
| Golden/Sun Valley | Thurs | 7-Oct |
| West/Verdi | Tues | 21-Sep |
| West/Verdi | Wed | 6-Oct |
| Toll/Virginia City Highlands | Thurs | 23-Sep |
| Toll/Virginia City Highlands | Wed | 6-Oct |
| Carson/Dayton | Wed | 22-Sep |
| Carson/Dayton | Tues | 5-Oct |
| Palomino Valley | Tues | 28-Sep |



Other News and Events
We would also like to welcome our new surgery techni-
cian, **Erin Poll LVT**. Erin is a native of Holland, MI. She
received her Associate Degree of Veterinary Technology
from Bel Rea Institute in Denver, CO.
Congratulations to veterinary assistant **Lexie
Conrow** for her acceptance into the Truckee Meadows
Community College Veterinary Technology program.
Lexie begins her studies this fall.
Comstock Large Animal Hospital’s **Gold, Silver,
and Bronze Care Plans** are still available. For more
information, please call our office (775) 849-0120. 🐾

- Fun Facts**
The average 1000 lb horse:
- 🐾 *Has 13.2 gallons of blood*
 - 🐾 *Produces 10 gallons of saliva each day*
 - 🐾 *Has a heart that weighs 9 pounds*
 - 🐾 *Has a small intestine length of 70 feet*
 - 🐾 *Has a large intestine length of 12 feet*
 - 🐾 *Has 18 ribs (except for Arabians who only have 17)*
 - 🐾 *Should drink 10 gallons per day**
(1 gallon of water for every 100 pounds of horse)
**This volume should increase with heat and exercise*