

COMSTOCK LARGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

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Health CHRONICLE

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Comstock LARGE ANIMAL HOSPITAL

Health CHRONICLE SPRING 2011

Way to Go!



Jack Ferris and Moonie Boonie are back strong in the cutting world after a potentially devastating tendon injury sustained in

February. She was treated with stem cells, PRP, and shock wave therapy. Jack intensely rehabilitated Boonie. In September, Boonie was the Derby Finalist and the 10K Derby at the El Rancho Futurity. In October, she was the Circuit Champion Derby at the Open South Point Cutting and earned first and second place in the Derby for the Nevada Reined Cow & Cutting Horse Association. In November, she was second at the Arizona Cutting Horse Association 3K Novice and second Derby Open and first and second Derby Non Pro at the San Diego Cutting Horse Association. In January, Boonie earned second in the Classic Challenge Non Pro and Classic Challenge Open at the Redwood Empire Cutting and second in the 3K Novice and third in the 5K Non Pro Novice at the Double "R" Cutting. Great work Jack and Boonie!



Laura Kowalczyk and her horse Macchiato have had quite a year. In June, Macchi underwent emergency colic surgery, and Laura feared she was dangerously close to losing her greatest love. Laura slowly nursed Macchi back to health, and within three months they were jumping full courses at Big Air Riding Academy. Laura set a goal to show everyone that Macchi was back in action. She achieved that goal when they competed in the Sierra Nevada Horse Show Association's final show of the season. Laura says, "It was the most emotional ride I have ever had because my first and only horse was alive and at his best, a true miracle." Welcome back Laura and Macchi!



Tami Rougeau and her endurance horses excelled this year and achieved goals set for themselves. **TRS Amatzing Grace (May)** completed her first 100 mile event at the Sunriver 100 in Oregon. She finished all five rides including two multidays and the 100. She now has over 700 miles.

TRS Fancy Saddlelites (Fancy) returned to competition after foaling last year and finished 4th overall in the Nevada All-State Trail Riders Triple Crown. This included completing the Virginia City 100 for the second time. She now has over 1900 miles. Way to go Tami!

Kim Sweatt of Mirage Miniatures specializes in training/showing performance minis and says there's never a dull moment working "little" horses with "big" attitudes! 2010 highlights included the mid-year purchase of **Quintessas Radiante Caruso** who was named World Champion twice in the 3 year old Single Pleasure Driving and World Reserve Champion in Hunter Futurity at the AMHA World Show in Fort Worth. After garnering many grand champion ribbons in Halter and Country Pleasure driving during local/regional shows, **DD Too Hots Silk Treasure** won a World Reserve Champion title in showmanship at Worlds. The gelding also proved his versatility with 6 Top Ten ribbons in performance classes. **Aces Boomerang (Boomer)** showed steady progress in the cart, driving to his first Country Pleasure Grand Championship at a late summer show and securing a spot on AMHA's year-end Honor Roll. Kim hopes to build on these successes in 2011 as her show string increases to five horses- 3 stallions and 2 geldings. Whew!!! Good luck Kim! 🐾

Client Appreciation Day & Education Seminar

Saturday, March 12th, 9:00am

Take a behind the scenes tour of the hospital, meet our doctors and staff, and participate in half hour seminars on podiatry, supplement and nutraceutical use, and physical examinations and bandaging techniques. There will be a drawing for door prizes. Lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by phone (775) 849-0120 by Thursday, March 10th.

Our Doctors Never Stop Learning

Continuing education is extremely important to our doctors. These meetings and wet labs allow us to learn the latest research and treatment modalities. Dr. Coli attended Wild West Veterinary Conference in Reno, NV. Dr. Damonte attended American Association of Equine Practitioners National Convention in Baltimore, MD. Dr. Miller attended UC Davis North American Veterinary Regenerative Medicine Conference in Buellton, CA and Lake Tahoe Equine Conference in South Lake Tahoe, CA. Dr. Lau attended Current Diagnostics in Equine Dentistry at Michigan State University. Dr. Price attended Charles Heumhreus Memorial Lecture: Hoof Management in Sport Horses at UC Davis 🐾

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Feeding the Geriatric Horse

Elisabeth M. Lau DVM

Approximately 30% of horses in this area are over the age of 20. Many of these horses are on a maintenance diet and maintaining their weight. However, there are those that are beginning to show physical signs of aging (i.e. loss of muscle, difficulty maintaining weight, and difficulty chewing food). These horses should have a physical exam and potentially blood work performed to determine the cause of weight loss. Their diet should also be evaluated to determine if a different feeding strategy can be implemented.

The exact amount aging affects nutritional requirements in the horse is not known. Many studies show that the digestibility of crude proteins, phosphorous, and fiber are less in an older horse. This is thought to be due to poor dentition and age-related changes in the large colon. Studies have also shown that geriatric horses gain more weight when fed a commercial senior diet or comparable food ration. These diets have higher crude protein (14-16% vs. 8.5% in maintenance rations), high quality protein sources (soybean and alfalfa meal), and easily digestible sources (vegetable oils, beet pulp, and grain by-products). The addition of vegetable oils can also help improve body condition (slowly add to the diet over 2-3 weeks until feeding 1-2 cups daily). Brewer's yeast (fed at 2-4 ounces daily) is rich in B Vitamins and may be beneficial in horses with kidney or liver disease. Vitamin C (fed at 10 grams twice daily) aids immune function. Age related diseases such as kidney disease, liver disease, and pituitary tumors (Cushing's disease) may require adjustments to the senior diet. Your veterinarian can help you develop a diet with your horse's body in mind.

Poor dentition can cause a horse to have difficulty chewing and decrease the amount of food consumed. This is especially true in horses on a strictly hay based diet. An oral examination and routine dentistry can help maximize a horse's existing dentition. Feeding high quality hays (more leaf, less stem) that are softer to chew are strongly recommended. Pasture grazing is also recommended because grass requires less chewing. Severe dental problems (excessively worn or missing teeth) may require a commercial senior feed. Older horses can have decreased salivary production and esophageal function that may lead to choke. Soaking the feed may also make it easier to chew. This ration should be divided into 4-5 feedings to help simulate a natural grazing pattern.

Other factors to consider are ensuring that your horse has ample time to eat. If your geriatric horse is in a herd situation, he may need to be separated. If your horse has arthritis, it is important to raise the feeder so you're your horse does not have to strain to reach his food.

For any questions regarding your senior horse and changes to his diet, please contact your veterinarian. 🐾

Quarter Cracks and Sheared Heels

Stephen C. Damonte DVM

After attending the American Association of Equine Practitioners' annual convention in Baltimore this last December, I came away with a new interest in the horse's foot and how we manage the many problems associated with equine lameness. One lecture in particular gave new insight as to how quarter cracks develop. Historically we have thought that quarter cracks developed as a result of either injury to the coronet band or from improper trimming (medial-lateral imbalance). While these insults can still contribute to quarter cracks, another mechanism was described by Dr. Stephen O'Grady (veterinarian and farrier).



Dr. O'Grady noted that it is extremely rare to have a quarter crack not accompanied by a limb conformation fault that leads to sheared heels and abnormal landing patterns. In a nutshell this means that a conformation problem in the leg which causes the foot to land unevenly ends up distorting the foot in such a way that a weakness

develops in the hoof wall which ultimately manifests itself as a painful hoof crack.

There have been many treatments described on how to "fix" quarter cracks, but despite all the new acrylics and devices, the reoccurrence rate has been high. This is most likely due to not addressing the cause and trimming the foot appropriately by increasing the ground surface under the affected heel so the horse is landing normal before trying to fix the crack itself. This sometimes involves a second visit by the farrier to allow the sheared heel to settle back down into a normal position before attempting to repair the defect. In addition, an extended lay off may be necessary for the hoof capsule to regain the structural integrity to withstand the forces placed upon it.

Hopefully with this new information, we can all look at the quarter crack problem a little differently and work harder at keeping our equine athletes performing to the best of their ability. 🐾



SPRING VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

Area/Location	Day	Vacc Date
Washoe Valley	Thurs	3-Mar
Washoe Valley	Sat	5-Mar
Washoe Valley	Wed	9-Mar
Washoe Valley	Thurs	17-Mar
Washoe Valley	Tues	22-Mar
Washoe Valley	Sat	2-Apr
South Reno	Tues	1-Mar
South Reno	Thurs	10-Mar
South Reno	Sat	12-Mar
South Reno	Wed	16-Mar
South Reno	Tues	29-Mar
South Reno	Sat	9-Apr
Mt.Rose/Pleasant Valley	Wed	2-Mar
Mt.Rose/Pleasant Valley	Tues	15-Mar
Mt.Rose/Pleasant Valley	Wed	23-Mar
Mt.Rose/Pleasant Valley	Thurs	31-Mar
Spanish Springs	Wed	2-Mar
Spanish Springs	Thurs	17-Mar
Spanish Springs	Tues	22-Mar
Spanish Springs	Sat	26-Mar
Palomino Valley	Mon	4-Apr
Golden/Sun Valley	Tues	1-Mar
Golden/Sun Valley	Wed	16-Mar
Golden/Sun Valley	Thurs	31-Mar
Lemmon Valley	Thurs	3-Mar
Lemmon Valley	Tues	15-Mar
Lemmon Valley	Sat	19-Mar
Lemmon Valley	Wed	23-Mar
North Valleys	Tues	8-Mar
North Valleys	Thurs	24-Mar
North Valleys	Wed	30-Mar
Carson/Dayton	Wed	9-Mar
Carson/Dayton	Thurs	24-Mar
Virginia Foothills/Highlands	Tues	8-Mar
Virginia Foothills/Highlands	Wed	30-Mar
Verdi-Mogul/West Reno	Thurs	10-Mar
Verdi-Mogul/West Reno	Tues	29-Mar

PRICE LIST	
Farm Call	15
Physical/Wellness Exam	20
West Nile Innovator	32
West Nile + EWT	39
Rhino-Influenza	29
Strangles I.N.	32
Rabies	21
Deworm	17
Deworm (Quest)	22
Deworm (Foal/Mini)	14
Fecal Exam	17.50
Clean Sheath	45
Sedation...Starts At...	45
Coggins	28
Health Certificate	37
Additional on H.C.	12

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

Pfizer Immunization Support Guarantee: Pfizer Animal Health will pay for diagnostic and 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.

Client Satisfaction Survey

We strive to make your experience at Comstock Large Animal Hospital as informative, professional, and comforting as possible. In order to do this, we need your feedback. This spring we are conducting a Client Satisfaction Survey. For your time, your name will be placed in a drawing for a \$100 Visa Gift Card. To access the survey, visit the following link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SV8C3SW> 🐾