



Kirkton Veterinary Clinic Equine Services

Dr. R. Young Dr. K. Crossan Dr. L. Aurini Dr. T. Gaynor

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A WINTER EMERGENCY?

A winter wonderland can quickly turn into blustery blizzards and icy roads. Here are some tips to help prepare yourself in the event you have an emergency on a stormy winter day:

- * Keep a stocked first aid kit, including items such as bandaging material, stethoscope, thermometer, basic wound care supplies, and any medications you routinely keep on hand. Check out our first aid pamphlet for a complete list of supplies at: www.kirktonvetclinic.com/images/documents/firstaidpamphlet.pdf
- * Ensure you know the address where your horse is located and that there is a clear accessible path to the animal.
- * Reduce the risk of having an emergency. Check for sharp objects on and around your property. Ensure adequate hydration to reduce the risk of colic.
- * When in doubt, call us for an opinion! The quicker we can address a potential problem, the better likelihood of a good outcome.



WINTER REMINDERS

- * Tapeworms! Now is the time for your annual tapeworm deworming. Remember tapeworms often don't appear on fecal egg counts, so annual proactive deworming is a must. Look for products that contain praziquantel (Quest Plus, Eqvalan Gold, Equimax) or a double dose of pyrantel (Exodus, Strongid)
- * Get ready for foaling season! Make sure your mare's vaccines are current, especially tetanus (4—8 weeks before foaling) and anti-abortion vaccines (given at 5, 7, and 9 months gestation). Who will have the New Year's baby?!

THE EQUINE SENIOR CITIZEN

Much like humans, our older equine counterparts require a little extra TLC, especially in the cold winter months. Older horses in particular are often more severely affected by the frigid Canadian winter since they commonly have more difficulty maintaining their body condition. Here are some tips for helping the older horse in the winter:

- * Keep your older or thin horse blanketed to help protect against the elements. When outside, ensure adequate shelter is available.
- * Ensure your horse has had proper dental care. If you notice your horse is dropping his feed, losing weight, or having difficulty chewing, dental floating may be required in order to keep your horse from losing condition.
- * An older horse may benefit from the addition of a senior pelleted ration to provide adequate nutrition and additional calories required for maintaining normal body temperature. Soaking the pellets is also a great way to increase water intake.

HOLIDAY CLOSURES

December 25 CLOSED
December 26 CLOSED
January 1 CLOSED

REDUCED HOURS

December 24 8 AM—2PM
December 31 8AM—2PM

**Emergency services are always available 24-7, by calling
519—229—8911 or
1—888—443—4184*





IS YOUR HORSE GETTING ENOUGH WATER?



Cold temperatures that come with winter weather often result in decreased water intake and can subsequently lead to dehydration and impaction colics. Here are some tips to ensure your horse stays well hydrated in the frosty winter!

1. ENSURE CLEAN, UNFROZEN WATER IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE— Heated water buckets are helpful in preventing your horse’s water from freezing which can inadvertently lead to dehydration.
2. ADD SALT TO YOUR HORSE’S DAILY RATION— Adding 1—2 tbsp. of salt to your horse’s daily grain ration or making a salt block available will stimulate thirst and subsequently increase water intake.
3. ADD WATER TO THE DIET— Adding warm water to your horse’s grain or sweet feed helps increase your horse’s water intake and makes for a yummy winter porridge! Alternatively, you can soak your horse’s hay for 30 minutes prior to feeding.
4. TRY FLAVOUR ADDITIVES— Some horses can be encouraged to drink more by adding small amounts of molasses or apple flavoured syrup to their water.
5. MONITOR HYDRATION STATUS— Pinch the skin on the side of your horse’s neck with your fingers. The skin should snap back almost immediately in a well hydrated horse. Also check your horse’s gums. They should be nice and slippery!

AS OUR YEAR COMES TO A CLOSE, WE BID FAREWELL TO TWO OF OUR FINEST...

DR. BOB IS RETIRING!



After over 30 years of dedication to the equine industry, Dr. Bob Young is hanging up his stethoscope. We will certainly miss having access to Bob’s vast knowledge and experience in the world of equine medicine, but wish him well in his well-deserved retirement. He is looking forward to spending more time with his

family, including his young grandson, and spending time at the cottage!

Bob will miss all of the clients that he has built such strong relationships with over the years, and wishes them well on all their future adventures in the equine world!

DR. CARLY HAS MOVED!

Dr. Carly Telfer has hung up her KVC hat and returned to her roots. After five years providing excellent care for our equine and small animal companions, Carly and her husband Daniel have decided to move closer to their family to share in the joys of their new son Max. Carly has enjoyed her time with us and sends holiday greetings to all of her clients, who she will miss dearly! Although we will miss Carly’s smiling face in the office, we wish her well on all her endeavours, and continued success in her career.



“ Thank you to all of our wonderful clients for your business in 2013. From our KVC family to yours, wishing you a safe and happy holiday, and a prosperous new year. See you in 2014!!

— Bob, Katie, Lisa, and Tiffany

