

KIRKTON VET CLINIC

Equine Summer/Fall Newsletter

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE EQUINE TEAM:

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WEST NILE VACCINATIONS - IT'S NOT TOO LATE

West Nile Virus (WNV) is a mosquito-borne disease affecting horses, humans and other mammals. In Ontario, screening tests regularly find mosquitos positive for the virus. In horses, the infection causes life threatening neurologic disease. Luckily, a safe and highly effective vaccine is available for horses. Most cases of equine WNV occur in late summer and fall each year. Be sure to arrange for your annual WNV booster if you haven't already.

FALL DEWORMING - DON'T FORGET THE "PLUS"

With the rise of parasite resistance to common dewormers, our protocols for deworming horses have been changing over the past few years. Testing and selective treatment has become the gold standard of care. However, it is still recommended to deworm all horses once in the fall. This deworming should occur after the first frost, with a dewormer that also contains praziquantel for protection against tapeworms. Dewormers containing praziquantel are often labelled at "plus", "gold" and "max" after the regular name. For more information regarding parasite control, check out "Parasite Control with Dr. Peregrine" at <http://www.equineguelph.ca/news/index.php?content=364>



KVC's own Bree LaBute and her horse, Sky's The Limit, enjoying summer showing.



Looking for some weekend fun? Come join us at the Con Brio Showjumping Development League Championships October 12, 2013

Heat Stress in Horses



WHAT TO WATCH FOR?

- Elevated respiratory rate and heart rate
- Rectal temperature elevated above 40.5 degrees Celcius
- Poor appetite
- Dull
- In severe cases, horses can become weak, start to stumble and may even become recumbent

WHAT TO DO?

- Get the horse into a shaded area
- Apply cool (but not cold!) water over the body
- Offer drinking water
- Get a fan running near the horse if safe to do so
- Some cases will require veterinary attention. Call your veterinarian for advice with all cases of heat stress

HOW TO BEAT THE HEAT

1. WATER AND ELECTROLYTES

Just like us, horses need to be able to replace the water and salts lost through sweating. Horses should have easy access to fresh, clean water at all times in the summer heat. Be sure to check water sources regularly. Providing access to salt blocks or loose salt is helpful, but many horses will require additional electrolyte support in extreme heat. Providing horse-specific electrolytes into the daily ration or after strenuous training can greatly enhance salt replacement.

2. SHADE, SHELTER AND SELECTIVE TURN OUT TIMES

If outdoors in extreme heat, it is very important that your horse be able to escape the direct sunlight. For turnout, paddock shelters or shade from trees are helpful. Also avoid turnout during the hottest parts of the day. Limit turn out to morning, evening and overnight during periods of extreme heat.

3. TRAINING

Reduce the length and intensity of your training in extreme heat. Try to avoid riding during the hottest parts of the day. Be sure to cool your horse down sufficiently after training to avoid tying up.

4. BATHING

Applying room temperature to slightly cool water along your horses body can help cool his body temperature.

5. KEEP THE AIR MOVING

Air flow over the skin is vital to allow sweating to effectively cool our bodies. Setting up stall fans or fans in the barn to keep air moving can greatly improve your horse's comfort. Be cautious that fans are placed in safe locations and that no electrical hazards are present.

6. AVOID SUNBURN

White haired areas of the horse are susceptible to sunburn. Protect these areas with application of horse safe sunscreen or summer sheets.