



HOLIDAY UPDATES 2011

CLINIC NEWS...

HOLIDAY HOURS:

The KVC will be closed but providing emergency services on:

- Sunday December 25th
- Monday December 26th
- Sunday January 1st

Reduced hours are as follows:

- Saturday December 24th – open until noon
- Saturday December 31st – open until noon
- Monday January 2nd – open until 2pm

The clinic will be back to regular operating hours starting Tuesday January 3rd.

EQUINE EXTRAVAGANZA!

Attention all horse lovers! The date has been set for 2012! Please mark your calendars for the evening of Wednesday, March 21 for KVC's annual Equine Extravaganza – client information night. Guest speaker Dr. Rob Tremblay will give a presentation on Equine Herpes virus and other neurological diseases (such as West Nile Virus and Eastern and Western Encephalomyelitis), followed by presentations from your favourite KVC veterinarians – and some great food ☺ An evening not to be missed – we hope to see you there!

THE HOLIDAYS ARE UPON US...

Wintertime has snuck up on us again – along with all the extra work of extra blankets, extra feeding and shoveling snow! We know this is a busy time of year for everyone, but there are a few things that become important for horse owners to think about around the holiday season.

- Older horses need some extra special care as the cold weather approaches
- Pregnant mares are coming due for their anti-abortion vaccines (given at the 5th, 7th and 9th month of pregnancy)
- Colic prevention (dietary precautions) become important as our water troughs freeze and the green grass disappears
- Annual deworming for tapeworms is ideally done in Mid to Late winter

The equine vets at KVC are looking forward to helping make this a happy and healthy holiday season for you and your horses. Call us if you have any questions regarding these issues or others, we would love to hear from you!



WINTER CARE FOR THE OLDER HORSE...

Anyone caring for an elderly horse has probably noticed that the cold weather is harder on these guys than the average adult. A few things to keep in mind to get your old horse through the winter more comfortably are as follows: Remember to blanket older or thinner horses according to the weather. As horses age they tend not to grow as thick or lush a coat and may need added protection. Ensure older horses have a good shelter if they live primarily outdoors in the winter. Alternatively, consider bringing them inside on cold nights

- Horses with poor dentition have a much harder time deriving nutrition from their hay. If you notice your older horse having difficulty chewing, or losing weight throughout the winter, prompt dental care may prevent them from losing condition
- Especially during the winter months, elderly horses may need to have their feed rations increased, or modified. Senior pelleted feeds provide a balanced diet and added calories, and can even be soaked in warm water to increase water intake

PREVENTING COLIC IN THE WINTER...

Colic is a serious problem in the horse world at any time of year, but the cold weather in Ontario adds a few extra concerns. Here are a few tips to help with winter colic prevention:

- Ensure your horses have access to fresh, warm water at all times. Horses can't eat enough snow to stay hydrated, so heated waterers both inside and outdoors are a handy option. Freezing cold water isn't nearly as appealing on a cold day, so horses without warm water may drink less, increasing their chances of having an impaction colic.
- Inclement weather can limit the amount of time our horses get to spend outside moving around. Horses that are kept indoors should be exercised daily – even if just at the walk – to keep their digestive systems moving.
- If feeding a pelleted ration, consider adding a little warm water to your horse's feed to boost water intake
- Try to keep your horse's schedule as consistent as possible, despite bad weather. Horses thrive with a regular schedule and are much less likely to colic when their routines are maintained.

ANTI-ABORTION VACCINES...

If you have a pregnant mare that comes into contact with other horses, you should consider vaccinating her against viral abortion, caused by EHV-1. Vaccinations are given at the 5th, 7th and 9th month of pregnancy and will help protect your unborn foal. Commonly used vaccines are Pneumabort and Prodigy. Please call us for more information or to set up your vaccine schedule.

TAPEWORM PREVENTION...

Winter is the time in Ontario to do your annual deworming against tapeworms. Tapeworms are tricky parasites, as they do not often show up in fecal flotations, yet they can affect almost any horse. Horses get tapeworms by ingesting little mites that live in the grass on our pastures that are carrying tapeworm eggs. No matter how clean your pastures are, or how fabulous your deworming protocol is, we should always be vigilant about tapeworms. Look for a deworming product that contains the drug praziquantel, which is active against tapeworms, or use a double dose of pyrantel pamoate (Strongid, Exodus) paste in January or February.

