

KIRKTON EQUINE SERVICES



Where have we been this summer?

And where can you find us next??



The KVC has been out and about this summer! For those of you that made it out to the ConBrio Show Jumping Development League shows this year, you may have seen our very own Bree LaBute take top prize in the 1.10M class.

Later this month, you can find us at the Ilderton Fall Fair - September 28, 29, 30, and at the OBRA finals in Clinton, ON the weekend of October 12, 13, 14.

We hope to see some of you out at these exciting events!

WEST NILE VIRUS

Recently, the Government of Ontario issued a press release warning about an increased presence of West Nile Virus this year in our province.

“There is the potential for a significant increase in the number of equine WNV cases in Ontario in 2012. Public Health Ontario has reported the highest number of WNV-positive mosquito pools since 2002, which is the first year that human and equine cases were identified in Ontario. As of August 22, 2012, there have been 49 confirmed or probable cases of human WNV in the province.”

At this time, there is also a steadily increasing number of confirmed equine cases here in 2012, which is an alarming change from recent years. At the KVC, we have had two suspected cases in our practice already this year.

Transmission is the most common in late summer, so please contact us if your horse is not currently vaccinated - 519-229-8911

FALL & WINTER DEWORMING PLANS

This is the ideal time of year to be thinking about deworming your horses for tapeworms! Tapeworms are the one parasite we see in horses that don't routinely show up in our fecal testing - and they are carried by mites that live in our pasture - so just about every horse is exposed to them.



At the KVC, we recommend deworming against these pesky worms once a year, usually in the late fall or early winter. Products that are effective against tapeworms contain the ingredient *Praziquantel* and can be found in such dewormers as Eqvalan Gold and Quest Plus. Please contact us with any questions you may have!

UPDATE ON ALLERGIC AIRWAY DISEASE (OR “HEAVES”)

Winter can be a difficult time of year for those horses that are affected with allergic airway disease - a condition commonly referred to in the horse world as “Heaves”.

The symptoms of allergic airway disease (coughing, increased respiratory effort) can be exacerbated in the cold winter months because of some changes to management that often come with the inclement weather seen in this part of the world.

Horses that are kept outside on pasture during the spring and summer months are often stabled (at least overnight) when the weather turns cold. Especially in barns with poor ventilation, this can dramatically worsen the symptoms of allergy. Keeping barns clean, and doors/windows open when possible can help keep these symptoms under control. Stabling the affected horses nearest to the exits (where the air is freshest) may also be of benefit.

Another culprit in the winter months is hay. Hay is a source of allergens for many horses - with round bales being higher in dust/spores than small square

bales. To minimize exposure to allergens - purchase the highest quality hay possible, and if hay is still dusty - soak it thoroughly before feeding for at least 20-30 minutes. (hosing or watering down the hay is not sufficient) Always make sure hay is fed from the ground to minimize introduction of allergens into the lungs.

Please contact us with any questions, we would be happy to advise you on the best course of action for your horse!



WINTER WEIGHT GAIN - THE HOW-TO'S



Winter is a tough time of year for some of our horses to maintain their normal, healthy body weight. This is because horses burn a lot of energy keeping warm, and they need to work a lot harder to get nutrition from dry hay than they do eating grass out in the pasture during the summer months. Some handy hints for

maintaining or increasing your horse's weight before the cold weather hits are as follows:

- use a weight tape to accurately chart your horse's current weight - and record this in a calendar
- add another meal of hay to his or her daily ration, or feed hay free-choice (higher quality hay will add nutrition more rapidly than lower quality)
- add in a higher calorie feed to his or her diet (such as a pelleted complete feed)
- add vegetable oil to his or her existing grain ration. Many horses will happily accept up to a half cup

of oil on their ration (so up to a cup per day). Corn oil is very palatable, but other such as canola are fine as well

- call your veterinarian if you notice your horse having any trouble chewing his feed (making faces when eating, dropping food particles) - it may be time for some routine dental care. Getting nutrition out of hay means doing a lot of grinding - which is tough to do when your teeth hurt!

- record your horse's weight monthly - remember obesity can cause health problems too!



ATTRIBUTE TO HICKSTEAD - ONE OF CANADA'S GREATEST ATHLETES

On Sunday, September 9, 2012 - a tribute in loving memory to Eric Lamaze's great partner Hickstead was unveiled at Spruce Meadows in Calgary, Alberta. CBC's video coverage of this event can be seen at: <http://www.cbc.ca/player/Sports/Top+Stories/ID/2277330683/>