

July 2009

Equine Update

The Factoid Issue

ECVVH

Just the Facts Ma'am

This newsletter is designed to be a quick reference guide for the everyday horse owner. Inside is a diagram of a horse with common ailments that affect various portions of the horse's body. Please remember that the ailments described within the body of this newsletter are only examples of common issues and by no means are a complete description of every issue a horse may encounter.

Succeed: Equine Fecal Blood Test

Succeed is an Equine Fecal Blood Test (FBT) that is helpful in diagnosing digestive problems, including gastric and colonic ulcers. Succeed is a fecal test that can easily be performed in the field, with results in 5-15 minutes. It is not a quantitative test (determining the severity of the problem), but a *qualitative* test (determining the *presence* of a problem). Succeed FBT is the only test we have available to detect colonic ulcers, but does not detect small gastric ulcers or gastritis (we still have to rely on our palpation of trigger points and endoscopic examination for that). Colonic ulcers can occur with or without gastric ulcers, and can still be present after the treatment of gastric ulcers. Thus, this test provides not only a good initial base line test, but a good follow up test to ulcer treatment in those horses with this problem. For more information on Succeed FBT visit our website at: ecvvh.com/articles.aspx.

Life Time Achievement Award

On March 14, 2009, the American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture awarded Dr. Kevin May with a *Lifetime Achievement Award* for his dedicated and outstanding Service in the Field of Veterinary Acupuncture. Dr. May was certified in Veterinary Acupuncture by the International Veterinary Acupuncture Society (IVAS) in February 1988 and has since gone on to become one of the lecturers on equine acupuncture in the IVAS certification course, as well as lecturing in equine acupuncture at veterinary schools and conferences both nationally and internationally.



ECVVH Equine Department

Dr. Kevin May

Jillian Boettcher
- Receptionist

Eleisa Cino
- Vet. Assistant

Melissa Ness
- Vet. Assistant

Pattee Sykes
- Endodontic Assistant

Dipyrone

- a safe injectable for owners to have on hand for the treatment of colic is available from ECVVH. Just call to get bottle.

EYE

- Horses can see in the dark because they have a tapetum lucidum.
- Horses eyes may tear due to a blocked tear duct, allergies, dust and foreign bodies.
- Horses have about a 350 degree field of vision, meaning they can just about see their tail with their head pointed forward.
- Horses primarily see blue, yellow and green but probably not red.

EARS

- A horse can move its ears independently of each other, thus can focus its hearing in one direction on one side while in another direction on the other side.
- Aural Plaques, those white crusty things on the inside of the horse's ear, are due to the Papilloma Virus which is spread from horse to horse via biting insects.

NOSE

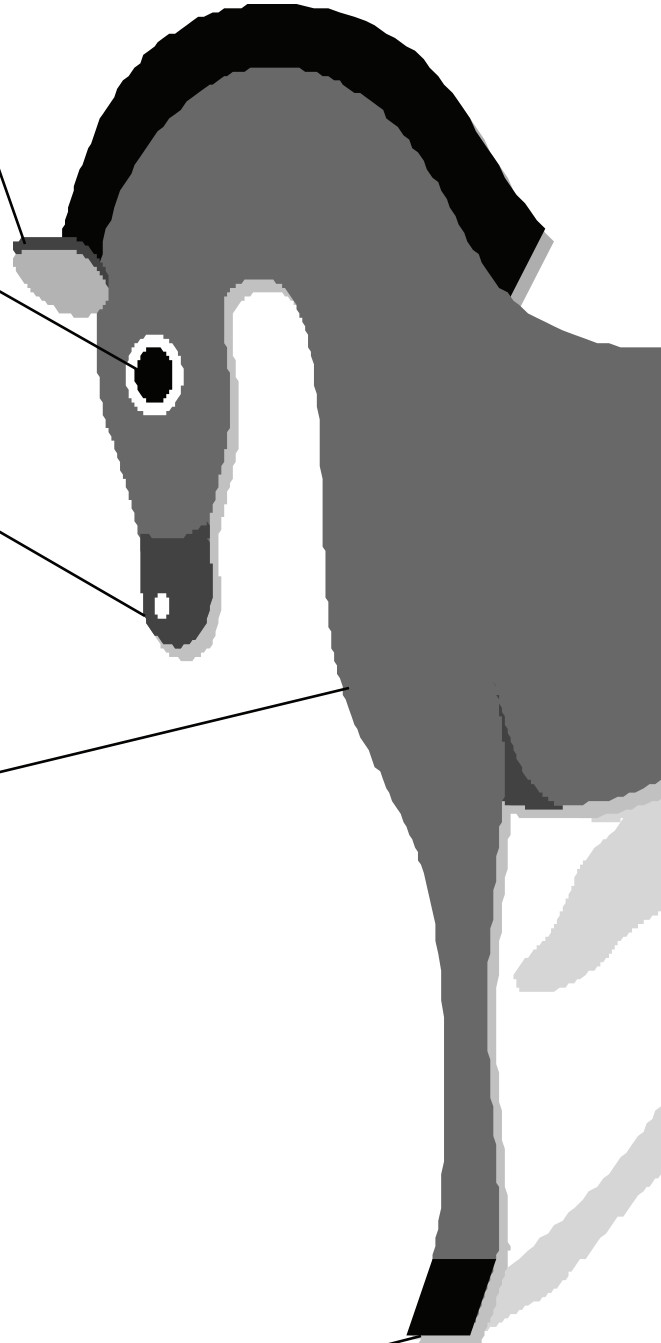
- Horses can only breathe through their nose.
- This is a very common area where rattlesnakes bite horses. Remember to have a 6 inch hose to place in your horse's nostril should your horse get bitten, and the nose swells.
- Horses have both a false nostril and a true nostril.
- Horse's tears come out of the nasal puncta which connects to the eye via the nasolacrimal duct.

CHEST (Breast area)

- May be used for intramuscular injections in the fractious horse.
- Common area for hematomas when the horse is kicked or runs into a fence.
- Common site for Dryland Distemper Abscesses (*aka Pigeon Breast Fever*).

FOOT

- Muddy, wet conditions promote thrush formation here.
- The length of the frog should be 3 times the width of it's base (*a 3-1 ratio for length to width*).
- A horse's foot grows an average of 1/8 of an inch every month (*that is 1/4 of an inch for an 8 week period*).
- Dishes and flares in the hoof wall are indications of an unbalanced foot.
- 80 to 90% of forelimb lameness originates here.



BACK

-A sore back can be due to:

Local problems such as an ill fitting saddle and arthritis of the spine, or

Non-local problems resulting in local referred pain from distant problems such as gastric ulcers or a hind end lameness.

-An atrophied topline may be due to a metabolic issue, referred pain, or a lack of exercise.

TAIL

-An itchy tail may be due to intestinal parasites, being in season, allergies, a dirty sheath, or a sore pelvis.

-May be held off to one side in a hind end lameness and/or chiropractic problem.

-Swished when the horse is not happy either due to pain or a behavioral issue.

-Can be broken, as it is composed of bones.

LOOSE MANURE

-May be due to sand moving through the intestinal tract, enteroliths (stones), Equine Gastric/Dorsal Colonic Ulcer Syndrome, a high fat diet, or parasites.

-A horse should produce an average of 7 piles a day.

BELLY

-A common area for pruritis and hair loss due to insect bites.

-A cinchy horse may have Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome.

-Long fine hairs here may be an indication of intestinal parasites.

PASTERN

-A common site for "scratches," which is a scab causing bacteria that may be difficult to get rid of.

-Are generally more "upright" on the hind end of the horse.

-Describes both a general area on a horse, is the name of a bone, and is also a joint known as the proximal interphalangeal joint.

-Is the joint involved in high ring bone.

**HURRY, HURRY EMAIL
& WIN A PRIZE!!!**

**The Equine Department
is giving out prizes!
It's easy and it's free.**

Simply email us at
ecvheq@yahoo.com with your
email address, name, phone
number & address. The first
500 people that send us an
email with the above
information win.

If you have already given us
your email address you must
email us again to win. If you
are a winner we will let you
know.

ecvvheq@yahoo.com

In Memoriam

Warren Dedrick, DVM

**Founder of ECVVH and Life Time member of the
SDCVM Association, Dr. Dedrick left us on April 17th,
2009. He was a 1941 graduate of Kansas State and
President of the SDCVMA in 1954. In WWII he served as
an Army Veterinary Officer and retired as a Major.**

**A 1999 article in the El Cajon Daily Californian
honoring the 50th Anniversary of the hospital quoted
him: *"Once I did a cesarean on a cow in the morning and
that night I did a cesarean on a 3 lb. Chihuahua, but the
tiredest I've ever been was when I did a cesarean on a
camel at the San Diego Zoo"*.**

**Dr. Dedrick is survived by his wife, Vivian and
their 5 children, one of whom is Patricia Dedrick, DVM
of Santa Barbara.**

He was 91 years old, an Officer and always a Gentleman.