



In This Issue

- Open House!
- The Pre-Purchase Exam
- No See-Ums but Horses feel 'em!!
- Over the Counter Products

Open House! Save the Date!

Come and join us on **Tuesday September 12th from 3pm until 7pm** to celebrate the opening of our new office and meet the new staff members on our team. Jessie will be leaving us mid September for her years' maternity leave—Come wish her and her new family well before she goes! There will be drinks, appetizers and door prizes! Our office is located at:

202—6981 East Saanich Road

We look forward to seeing you there!

The Pre-Purchase Exam



Photo Credit: Maureen Garrity Photography

Shopping for your next equine partner is both an exciting and stressful time. When you finally find the horse you think checks all the boxes, we recommend having a pre-purchase exam performed before you commit to purchasing and taking over care of this horse.

What is a pre-purchase exam? It's an opportunity to get to know your potential new horse even better before deciding if they're really the right fit. A pre-purchase exam includes a thorough physical exam of the horse; including evaluating their cardiovascular, respiratory, gastrointestinal systems, eyes, ears, mouth, skin, conformation, limbs, hooves, soundness and response to flexion tests. If indicated during the exam, or requested by you as the purchaser, a pre-purchase exam may also include further diagnostics such as

radiographs, ultrasound, endoscopy, or bloodwork.

Some abnormalities which may be picked up on a pre-purchase exam can include heart murmurs, cataracts, dental abnormalities, current lameness, or possible future sources of lameness such as osteoarthritis or changes to the navicular bone. The pre-purchase exam findings may indicate that the horse may not be able to perform the job you are hoping they will, or they may need special consideration or maintenance in order to perform at the desired level.



Photo Credit: Maureen Garrity Photography

The role of your veterinarian in the pre-purchase exam is not to pass or fail the horse, but to provide you, the purchaser, with the knowledge to make an informed decision about your purchase. Gaining a new equine partner is an exciting time! Utilizing a pre-purchase exam can help to minimize the stress associated with your new purchase and allow you to spend more time getting to know your horse and to focus on your future goals with them!



Photo Credit: Maureen Garrity Photography

No See-Ums but Horses Feel ‘Em



Photo Credit: www.bugguide.net

Sweet Itch, also known as Insect-bite Hypersensitivity, is an allergic reaction to the saliva of biting insects, in particular, Culicoides midges, better known as “No-See-Ums”. The allergic reaction can cause intense itching and bumps along the mane and tail head as well as the belly of horses. Attempts to relieve the itching can lead to abraded skin wounds, imbedded foreign material and secondary infections, intensifying the irritation and propagating the self-trauma. Horses suffering from relentless itching, and painful skin infections are also prone to other physiological conditions such as sleep deprivation, fatigue, irritability and even gastric ulcers.



Management of this problem is very frustrating for owners. In order to control it, treatment needs to start BEFORE the horse starts exhibiting signs, so that the allergic reaction and level of itchiness has not had the chance to flare. Once the immune system has had a chance to react and become hypersensitive, controlling the itchiness and preventing the horse from scratching and propagating the reaction is extremely difficult.

Here are some management strategies:

- Limit standing water which attracts midges and provides their breeding ground and refresh water buckets frequently.
- Bring your horse inside when midges are most active at dawn and dusk.
- Install fans in the stalls and barns
- Invest in a Sweet-Itch blanket that covers nearly the entire body. Top Choice: Rambo Fly Buster, with impregnated Permethrin. Available in US.
- Apply insect repellent very frequently.
- Feed supplements high in Omega 3 Fatty Acids, Vitamin E and Zinc.
- Apply thick topical creams such as Vaseline, Zinc cream, “Bag Balm” or oils such as Skin So Soft, Coconut oil or Vitamin E oil to act as a physical barrier.
- Apply medicated creams or ointments to treat inflammation, irritation and infection.
- Administer medications such as antihistamines to suppress the body’s allergic reaction.
- Employ desensitization immunotherapy to reduce your horse’s sensitivity to insect bites and other allergies.
- Start treatments 1 month prior to allergy season.
- Move your horse to an environment with a lower biting insect population.



There is no cure for this condition, so prevention and early treatment are key to keeping your horse comfortable during the spring and summer months. The midge season is typically April thru September, and the midges are most active at dawn and dusk. So start treatment in March before the midge has a chance to bite your horse.

Please contact us to discuss dermatologist recommended insect repellents, supplements, topical and oral medications and intra dermal allergy testing to control the allergic reactions.

Over the Counter Products

We are happy to announce that at our new office we are now offering various equine health care products including first aid supplies, dewormers and supplements. We also offer a First Aid Kit, Bandage/Wound Kit and a Hoof Abscess Kit. Please come by for a visit and to have a look at our new products.



Lots of Equine Care Products



Hoof Abscess Kit



First Aid Kit



Bandage/Wound Kit