



Photo Credit: Maureen Garrity Photography

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New Website Launch!

After weeks of hard work, we are delighted to re-release our website at www.swiftsureequine.com. Our goal is to provide you with up-to-date information about our practice and community, as well as share our knowledge and expertise in veterinary medicine.

Our website features useful information on equine diseases, horse care and feeding management. You will find several “how-to videos” offering instructions on bandaging, administering eye drops and other useful tips.

Check out our “Case Of The Month” where we share some interesting cases we’ve seen this year, as well as our local and international involvement in the “Community Events” section.

Please visit our new site and let us know what you think!

Upcoming Events

Modern Approach to Parasite Control

Thursday November 3, 2016 at 7:00pm

A Vetoquinol sponsored lecture on Parasite management will be presented by Dr. Ela Misuno. It will be held in the Dogwood Dining Room at the Saanich Fairgrounds. See equine parasites with your own eyes and learn what’s new in deworming protocols. Please call or email to RSVP.

‘Eyeballing’ Conjunctivitis

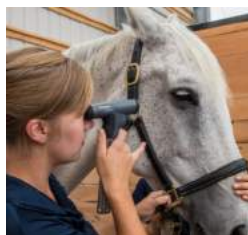


Photo Credit: Maureen Garrity Photography

In September, many horse owners on the Saanich Peninsula have found their horse with a swollen eyelid and itchy, runny eye. Horses can contract conjunctivitis, or pink eye, from several sources including a dust or pollen-rich environment, an illness or a viral or bacterial infection. It can be highly contagious, depending on the cause. We suspect that in most of the local cases, the cause is a bacterial infection transmitted by face flies.

All eye issues are considered a veterinary emergency until proven otherwise so if you suspect your horse has conjunctivitis (ocular discharge and itchy swollen eyelids) please contact the office for further instruction. Prior to your appointment, you can flush the eye repeatedly with a saline solution and have your horse wear a fly mask to prevent further spread of the disease while protecting the eyes from further irritation from flies. **Make sure that your horse is not scratching with the fly mask on, as it can cause more damage to the eye by rubbing.

To prevent this from happening again next year, fly control is essential. Make sure to clean the stalls, paddocks and fields regularly, dispose of the manure appropriately or off property, use fly traps or sticky tapes, keep fly masks on all horses, and consider predator wasp species to keep the fly population under control.

Fun Fact!

Did you know that there are fly predators to help control pest fly populations? Otherwise known as fly parasites, the predators are tiny wasps that occur in nature and do not pose any threat to humans, livestock or household pets. Fly predators interrupt the reproductive cycle of the pest fly within manure piles. The wasp pupa come in pouches that are spread over manure piles and along fence lines. They burrow up to 8” into the manure and ingest the pest fly pupa. Using fly parasites, alongside proper manure disposal, can help control the fly population in your barn. For further info go to www.star-gro-products.ca/



Photo Credit: Spalding Labs

New Product: OsPhos

OsPhos, or clodronate disodium, is a relatively new medication used for the treatment of navicular syndrome in horses. It is a member of the drug class known as bisphosphonates, which also includes Tildren. Bisphosphonates were originally developed to treat osteoporosis and other bone thinning diseases in humans.

Healthy bone is continually undergoing a remodelling cycle with special cells, known as osteoclasts, breaking down bone matrix and other cells, known as osteoblasts, rebuilding it. This tightly regulated process is stimulated in response to the stressors placed on bones (growth, workload, repair of injuries). The boney changes observed in horses with navicular syndrome are thought to result in part from a dysregulation between osteoclast and osteoblast activity. This leads to a relative over-activity of osteoclasts and loss of bone mass within the navicular bone.

OsPhos reduces bone breakdown by causing cell death of osteoclasts. Studies have shown nearly 75% of horses with diagnosed navicular syndrome showed improvement in their degree of lameness within 56 days of treatment with OsPhos. It is suggested that this medication is most effective for horses early in the disease process, making an early and accurate diagnosis that much more important for a successful outcome.



Photo Credit: Maureen Garrity Photography

Saturday Appointments!



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As most of you now know, we have a new vet, Dr. Kaitlin McDonald, working at Swiftsure Equine. Now with more flexibility in scheduling, we are able to extend our regular business hours to include Saturdays.

Furthermore, Kaitlin will also be working on Fridays to give Danica some much needed time off! Kaitlin will be available for routine medical care, vaccinations and teeth floating, as well as emergencies on those days.

To learn a little more about Kaitlin, visit our website at www.swiftsureequine.com

Cushing's Disease in Horses

This is the time of year that we are seeing middle aged and senior horses develop laminitis. One common cause for this is undiagnosed Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction, aka Equine Cushing's Disease.

PPID is most often seen in older horses (>14yrs), and is caused by changes in brain chemistry which affect the pituitary gland, increasing the amount of the hormone ACTH being produced and released into the horse's body.

Symptoms of PPID can include any of the following:

- Laminitis/founder
- Fat deposits at the tail head, behind the shoulder, the crest of the neck
- Loss of topline muscling
- Long hair coat, or delayed shedding of the winter coat
- Abnormalities with sweating
- Lethargy or change in attitude
- Increased water intake and urination
- Recurrent or persistent infections

As our fields become greener and the potential for laminitis increase, Swiftsure Equine recommends the best time to test for PPID is in September and October.

To learn more about PPID, symptoms and treatment, please go to our Client Education section at www.swiftsureequine.com.

Office Update

As many of you have realized, we have not moved into our new office space yet. Unfortunately with several delays in the construction process, the completion date has been postponed until November or December. We are all looking forward to finally moving into a larger location as well as have a home base for prescription pick up and specimen drop off.

2017 Horse Calendars

Christmas is coming and it marks the arrival of the 2017 Swiftsure Equine calendar in the mail! Keep your eyes peeled for a new calendar for your locker or tack room! Please contact us ASAP if you have a new mailing address so we can send you the calendar!

Facebook

Swiftsure is delighted to announce our Facebook page! Here, we will post updates with fun horse facts and informational content for our clients. It will also serve as an up-to-date site for any scheduling changes and important news bulletins. Please like us at "Swiftsure Equine Veterinary Services"

Christmas Hours at Swiftsure

SEVS will be available for urgent and emergency calls from December 24, 2016 to January 2, 2017. The last day for regular appointments will be Friday December 23rd and will commence again on January 3, 2017. The office will be open between 8:30am and 1:00pm on December 27th through to December 30th and on January 2, 2017 to book appointments and pick up prescriptions.