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Upcoming Events

Common Lamenesses in Dressage Horses: Risks, Sources and Treatments

Tuesday October 17, 2017 at 6:30pm

Dr. Danica will be speaking at a LIEC meeting in the Oak Room at the Saanich Fairgrounds. Doors open at 6.30pm, lecture begins at 6:45pm. Attendance is open to non members. Contact LIEC for more information.

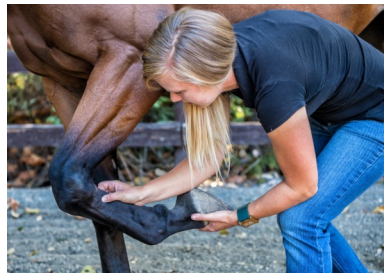
Thursday November 2nd, 2017

We are happy to welcome back Dr Ela Musino from Vetoquinol Canada to speak on equine parasites again this year. Details will be posted on our Facebook page,

Open House Success

On Tuesday September 12th, many of you joined us to celebrate the opening of our new office and we are happy to say that it was a great success! We enjoyed local cider from Sea Cider and yummy treats from Tonolli's deli. A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who was able to make it out in support.

Continuing Education for our Vets



On September 15th and 16th, Dr. Kaitlin attended a continuing education course in "Advanced Lameness Diagnostics" at Pilchuk Veterinary Hospital in Snohomish, WA. The course instructors included a radiologist, sports medicine specialist, and surgeon. The course covered techniques for lameness evaluation and diagnosis. Specific topics included evaluation of multiple limb lameness, ultrasound of

the suspensory ligament and stifle, nuclear scintigraphy and MRI, and the use of inertial sensors for objective gait analysis - or the "Lameness Locator". The weekend was a great learning and networking opportunity for Dr. Kaitlin, and she is excited to put her new knowledge to work now that she's back home on the Island!

Dr. Danica is currently in Langley BC attending a 4-day seminar taught by world renowned lameness expert Dr Jean-Marie Denoix. The first day, Dr. Danica will be joining other veterinarians and farriers for a 1-day course on Therapeutic Shoeing of the Equine Athlete. The course focuses on therapeutic shoeing for foot, tendon and ligament injuries and diseases. The following 3-day module, also led by Dr Denoix, focuses on the pelvis, including the lumbosacroiliac and hip joints. Conditions reviewed include sacroiliac and lumbosacral arthropathies, pelvic fatigue and coxofemoral conditions. Dr. Danica looks forward to bringing home with her useful information and tips to improve the management and rehabilitation of our equine athletes.



An Update on Jessie!

It (will be) a **BOY!** Jessie is eagerly awaiting the arrival of the new addition to her family whom is due on October 7th. At this point everything is moving along smoothly for her and the baby is healthy. Jessie and her husband Graham just cant wait to meet him! Jessie was able to make it out to our open house earlier this month and it was wonderful to see her!

New Team Members at SEVS

Kate—Practice Manager



Kate was born in the UK and moved to Canada when she was 5. Her love of animals started at a young age and rode her first horse at the age of 6. Her focus growing up was in the hunter/jumper ring but has tried a bit of everything. She owns a 2 yo TB/Con gelding that she has had since birth. She also has partial ownership of his little sister and will be taking on

his big sister very soon. She started in the small animal vet clinics as an assistant in 1998 and has always had a passion for veterinary medicine. She is currently working towards her Diploma of Equine Science through the University of Guelph and hopes to attain that next year. When she is not working or at the barn, she enjoys spending time with her rescue French bulldog Dixie and her husband Bob. She is very honoured and excited to spend the next year working with the Swiftsure Team as Practice Manager .

Blaire—Veterinary Assistant



Blaire was born in Revelstoke, BC and moved to Vancouver Island with her family at the age of four where she began summer riding camps at the age of six. After years of lessons and leasing, Blaire bought her four-year-old Friesian Sport horse named Keeva. She has had her mare for four years and with lots of training and hard work, enjoys dressage and jumping. Blaire is working part time assisting with on

farm visits and plans to attend University for Business in Victoria next fall. Aside from her strong love for animals and their well-being, Blaire enjoys the outdoors and spending time with her beloved Yorkshire Terrier Missi!

Insulin Resistance



Heading into the fall and seeing the return of green grass in our pastures has metabolic diseases rising to the top of our minds once again. Green pastures can mean significant problems for horses with Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS), as the higher sugar intake can lead them to a bout of laminitis.

EMS is a clinical syndrome in horses characterized by obesity, Insulin Resistance (IR), and subclinical or clinical laminitis. Obesity in horses is classified as a body condition score of 7 or greater out of 9 (1 = emaciated & 9 = severely obese). In some cases, horses do not uniformly distribute their body fat, and develop localized fat deposits in the crest of the neck, at the tail head, and at the back of the shoulder.

IR is a condition in horses similar to Type II Diabetes in people, where the body tissues are less responsive to insulin. Typically affected horses have elevated blood insulin, and may or may not also be hyperglycemic.

Laminitis is a condition of inflammation of the laminae of the hoof. This structure attaches the hoof capsule to the bony structures of the hoof. Clinical laminitis presents with dramatic lameness in the affected feet, and can lead to rotation or sinking of the coffin bone. Subclinical laminitis describes inflammation within the laminae which has not progressed to the point of causing outward signs. Past episodes of subclinical laminitis may be visible as bruising at the white line at a hoof trim. The risk of laminitis is of particular concern with horses with EMS, as laminitis is not only a very painful condition, but can necessitate euthanasia in severe cases.

Physical exams and bloodwork can identify horses with EMS. Diagnosis of IR is done by measuring blood insulin levels. Elevated insulin levels can be controlled by reducing the BCS of the horse through controlled feed intake and increased exercise. There are also medications which can be used to increase their metabolic rate and stimulate further weight loss. It is important to not allow horses affected by EMS to have any high sugar or non structural carbohydrate (NSC) feeds (grains, rich pasture, carrots, apples, sugar cubes, etc), as a spike in blood sugar and insulin can trigger a painful laminitic episode. Feeding low-sugar (low NSC) hay is equally important in the control of the syndrome.

To learn more about Equine Metabolic Syndrome and Insulin Resistance, their symptoms, treatment, and feeding recommendations, please go to our Client Education section at www.swiftsureequine.com.

