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Upcoming Events

BASIC EMERGENCY CARE FOR YOUR HORSE—With hands on demos

Saturday March 10th, 2018
10am to 12pm

If you would like to learn about emergency care for your equine companion, please join us at the Victoria Therapeutic Riding Association (6917 Veyaness Road in Saanichton). This seminar and demo are intended for owners that have minimal experience in first aid treatments and techniques. Please RSVP to info@swiftsureequine.com. Space is limited! Fee is \$10 per participant. Proceeds will be donated to the VTRA.

HOW TO NAVIGATE THE WORLD OF EQUINE SUPPLEMENTS?

Thursday May 10th, 2018 at 6pm

We are happy to welcome back Dr. Ela Misuno from Vetoquinol to discuss the complicated world of supplementing our equine companions. This lecture will be held at the Fairgrounds in the Dogwood room and please RSVP to info@swiftsureequine.com

Dr. Danica's Trip to Costa Rica



Another successful and enjoyable trip to the southern villages of Costa Rica has just come to completion. Working on behalf of the Equitarian Initiative in cooperation with CREW (Costa Rica Equine Welfare group), our team consisted of 6 vets, 2 vet students, 4 farriers, a local zoologist and a very helpful husband.

We vaccinated, dewormed, deticked, castrated, floated and treated approx 250 horses again this year. A smaller turnout than last year as many equids were being worked in the mountains harvesting coffee beans. One highlight was seeing some repeat clients and patients, happier and healthier than the year before.

The group spent more time teaching the young owners how to pick out hooves, brush bodies and legs, and better saddle their horses. We brought over 200 gifts of halters, colouring books and grooming supplies, meaning that nearly every child walked away with a healthier horse, some useful tack, and hopefully a better appreciation for their horses' health.



New Team Member at SEVS!

Meghan Keeler—Veterinary Assistant

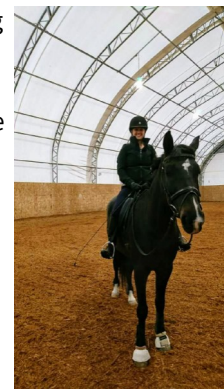


Meghan was born and raised on the Saanich Peninsula and had her first riding lesson at age 4. She spent most of her childhood and teen years at the barn and showing in the hunter jumper circuit. In 2006, Meghan set aside her passion for horses to work abroad and on the BC coast in the marine industry. She will be training part time as a vet assistant with Swiftsure Equine Vet Services. She is excited for the opportunity to work in the same field as her passion! Meghan and her husband have two young children who enjoy spending time with their family horse a Belgian Draft X QH, Anastasia. When she is not working at the farm, she enjoys hiking with her Lab X Husky, Marley and boating and exploring the coast with her family.

Jessie and her new Family Member, Bennett!



Jessie and her family are doing great. Bennett is happy and healthy. He loves going for walks and having long drawn out babbling conversations. He also enjoys adventures to the barn so he can watch his mom ride while he drools away. Jessie is so happy to be back riding and so is her horse, Finity. We will be welcoming back Jessie this fall!



Pastern Dermatitis



Cases of Pastern Dermatitis, also commonly called, “scratches” or “mud fever”, are very difficult to treat. There are several factors that are weakening the horse’s system and permitting the infection to persist. In order to clear the infection, we need to address all the contributing factors, which include:

Immune System and Skin

Health: To help strengthen the immune system horses should receive: **Quality Hay, Complete Vitamin/Mineral Supplement, Zinc** (helps with skin integrity), **Omega 3 & 6 Fatty Acids** (natural anti-inflammatory and help with skin and coat quality), and **Vitamin E** (free radical scavenger).

Environmental Stressors: Horses affected by chronic pastern dermatitis often are either housed or worked in sand. **Sand** is extremely abrasive and is likely causing micro-injury in the skin, permitting the infectious pathogens to penetrate into deeper tissues. Horses often have their legs clipped. **Clipping** can also cause micro-injuries in the skin and allow the sand to cause more damage. In our climate, we all struggle with wet paddocks and chronically wet limbs. **Moisture** is our enemy. The bacteria and fungus love wet environments. Keeping the horse in as dry of conditions as possible is essential- dry stalls, dry paddocks, and regularly and thoroughly drying the legs.

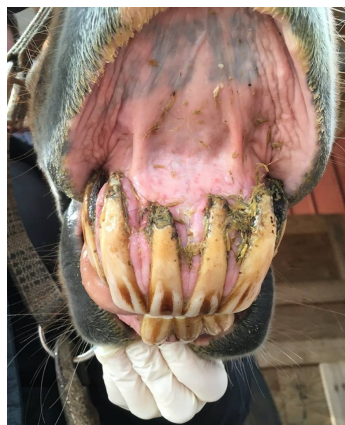
Infectious Agents: The skin infection is a combination of bacteria and fungus that are found throughout the environment. To control the infection, it is recommended to: **Clean the Skin Daily** with HIBITANE (Chlorhexidine). The skin should be gently scrubbed to remove loose scabs, but not so hard as to cause bleeding or reddening of the tissue. **The Skin Must Be Very Thoroughly Dried** afterwards with towels. **Topical or Internal Medications** may be necessary depending on the severity of the infection. Application of topical ointments is a careful balance too. You need enough for it to kill the pathogens but not too heavy as to create a moist and low oxygen environment.

Pastern Dermatitis is a complicated and complex infection to treat. It is often a long and uphill battle that must start with addressing all the contributing factors at the same time.



<http://www.gvequine.com/Pages/articles24.php>

EOTRH: It's a Mouthful!



Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis, or EOTRH for short, is a progressive and painful dental disease of the incisors and occasionally canine teeth wherein the tooth roots begin to reabsorb and develop bulbous deposits of cementum (one of the components of teeth) around the roots. These changes cause the bone around the tooth to painfully deform.

EOTRH is still not completely understood, and we don't entirely know what triggers the start and progression of this disease. We do

know that EOTRH occurs in middle-aged to older horses and is far more common in male horses than females. The clinical signs of EOTRH involve oral pain, hesitation to bite hard treats like carrots, or reactivity to the bit. An oral exam of affected horses often reveals gum recession, gingivitis (often with red dots on the gingiva around affected teeth), abscess draining tracts, and a bulbous appearance to the bone and tooth roots. EOTRH is diagnosed by radiographs of the incisors and canine teeth showing resorptive lesions, bulbous roots, and/or bone loss.

The only treatment for these affected teeth is to extract them. Many owners struggle with the thought of removing all the incisors. However, horses affected by EOTRH are very stoic and often hide that they are living with significant dental pain. Once those painful teeth are removed, these horses often “come back to life”, eating voraciously, and grazing on all but the shortest grass. Remember, incisors are only responsible for the apprehension of food (along with the lips) but not the chewing or breakdown of feeds. That's the responsibility of the cheek teeth! In these post-extraction patients, after a relatively short recovery from their extractions, the only way you can tell they're missing any teeth is the tip of their tongue hangs out from between their lips!



Blaire, our Vet Assistant Heads to School!

Blaire, our previous vet assistant, who was with us for the past 6 months, has made the tough decision to start Business school this past January. All of us at Team SEVS would like to wish Blaire the best of luck at school!