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The Vast World of Equine Supplements!



On May 10th we welcomed Dr Ela Misuno and Vetoquinol to the island to discuss the world of equine supplements. This was a well attended lecture as many clients find this topic overwhelming and confusing! Dr Misuno discussed beyond basic feeding requirements and elaborated on complex issues like joint supplements, Vitamin E and Selenium. The take home message from this lecture was that it is important that a supplement comes from a trusted company that includes an appropriate dose of ingredients. We are excited to offer the Vetoquinol supplements and nutraceuticals at our office!

Upcoming Events

September Lectures and Labs

What topic would you like discussed or lab you would like to participate in?

Dentistry, Farriery, Lameness?

Let us know via email
info@swiftsureequine.com

Or on Facebook
[@swiftsureequine](https://www.facebook.com/swiftsureequine)

When is a Cough a Concern?



The warm and sunny weather brings with it lots of pollens and dust and we see many owners and their horses suffering from seasonal allergies. It's not uncommon to hear our horse coughing, but when does it become a concern? Some horses let out a few coughs at the beginning of exercise, or after rolling. If this is 'normal' behaviour for your horse, then it may not be a concern. However, if your horse's coughing is seasonal, if your horse has a few more coughs than 'normal' or repeatedly coughs throughout your ride, that's a concern. If you find your horse not recovering quickly after exertion, tiring rapidly during your ride or if you hear your horse coughing while eating or while standing quietly in their stall or paddock, this is not normal, and should be addressed.

Horses can suffer from allergic airway diseases, commonly termed Equine Asthma.

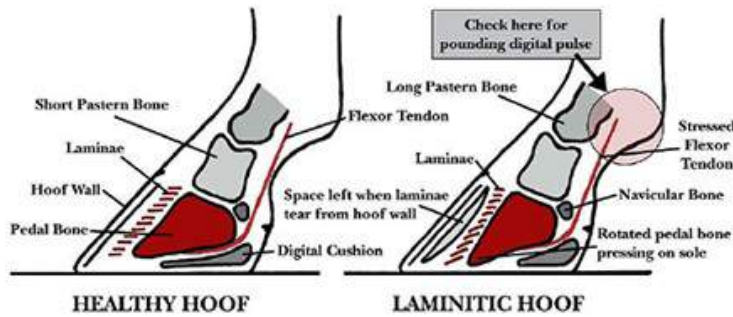
Intermittent Airway Disease (IAD), describes a condition most often seen in young horses who exhibit some exercise intolerance and/or cough during exercise but are normal at rest. Recurrent Airway Disease (RAO), describes a more chronic condition with narrowing airways (bronchoconstriction), bronchospasm, and mucous production. They exhibit a chronic cough, exercise intolerance, increased respiratory rate, nasal discharge, and respiratory difficulty, sometimes with a "heave line". These conditions need to be identified and addressed. For more info, please go to our website at www.swiftsureequine.com

When you start to hear your horse cough, we recommend you start making the following management changes: 1. Soak all hay and feed 2. Steam hay 3. Avoid round bales 4. Switch to pelleted or cubed feeds 5. Feed horses from the floor to increase mucous drainage 6. Turnout on dust-free pasture as much as possible 7. If horses must be stalled, make sure it is well ventilated, even in winter 8. Avoid storing hay in lofts above stalls 9. Do not bed (the barn) on straw or shavings 10. Take your horse out of the barn before cleaning, and avoid using leaf blowers 11. Thoroughly clean out the rafters and under the stall mats 12. Exercise horses on moist, dust-free footing. If your horse's cough does not resolve with these changes, then a veterinary exam is required.



<https://thehorse.com/138786/conditions-helped-by-hay-soaking/>

What is Laminitis?



<http://www.starhinsurance.com/blogs/laminitis.html>

Laminitis, also referred to as founder, is a painful condition that can affect all hooved animals, most commonly affecting horses and cattle. It has many causes including over consumption of simple carbohydrates (grass or grain), metabolic disease and infection. Laminitis is inflammation of the laminae, the structure within the horse's hoof that suspends the coffin bone from the hoof wall. This complex structure is composed of interlocking tissues that hold the horse up, suspending the skeleton within the hoof capsule. When the laminar tissues become inflamed, not only is it very painful for the horse to walk and stand on this inflamed tissue, but they lose their firm grip on one another. With the loss of firm attachment of the laminae, the coffin bone can begin to move within the hoof capsule.

Laminitis can occur in any of the horse's hooves but is most commonly seen in the forelimbs. Symptoms of laminitis include:

- Reluctance to walk, or even stand
- Reluctance to pick up one or both forelimbs, as weightbearing on the other limb is too painful
- Shifting weight between left and right feet
- Posturing in a "saw horse" stance, where the horse rocks their weight back onto their hindlimbs and extends their forelimbs in front of their body.
- Increased or "bounding" digital pulses (palpable at the lower back edges of the fetlocks)
- Heat in the affected hooves and coronary bands
- Painful response to hoof testers (a tool used by veterinarians and farriers to apply focal pressure to the hoof), particularly at the toe.



<https://practicalhorsemanmag.com/health-archive/fighting-laminitis-in-horses-30952>

Treatment of acute laminitis is focussed on controlling and reducing the inflammation within the hooves. This is best done by a multi-faceted approach including anti-inflammatory medications, cold therapy, supportive boots or pads, and restricted movement. Radiographs are useful to evaluate if any rotation or sinking of the coffin bone has occurred and determine any required farriery adjustments. Chronic laminitis treatment follows many of the same principles, with more of a focus on trimming and shoeing the affected hooves appropriately to support the damaged tissues and minimize the risk of recurrence.

You can find a longer article describing laminitis and its causes on our website. If you have any questions about your horse's risk for developing laminitis, please contact our office to consult with a veterinarian.

Summer Activities of Team SEVS

With the warmer weather upon us, the opportunity to get outside and explore with our horses has finally arrived! Whether you are in the show ring, camping or out on the trails, we want to see what you and your horse are getting up to this summer. Tag **@swiftsurequine** on Facebook and share your photos:

Here are a few things our SEVS team has been doing so far;



Dr. Kaitlin recently competed in the SSITS April and May shows, placing as Reserve Champion in the .9m jumpers Drivewise Class. You can expect to see Dr Kaitlin and Bellissima at the upcoming Arbutus Meadows Island Classic in July.



Our Vet Assistant Loranda has been enjoying the vast trails of Sooke with her mare Dancer and 2 year old Cari. Cari has experienced a few firsts this year while out on the trails, including her first introduction to water!