



In This Issue

- A Warm Welcome!
- Upcoming Events
- Thrush in Horses
- Do's and Don'ts of Colic
- Staff Updates!
- Christmas Hours

Upcoming Events

Hot Topics in Senior Horse Health!

Saturday November 24, 2018 at 9:00am to 10:30am

Boehringer-Ingelheim will be hosting this lecture with Dr. Guillaume Cloutier in the Gallery Building at the Saanich Fairgrounds. Doors will open at 8:15am as parking will be limited so please arrive early. Donations are accepted at the door with all proceeds going to Greener Pastures BC Standardbred Adoption Society. Please RSVP by November 16th to info@swiftsureequine.com or (250) 588-9438.

Calendars!

It's nearly that time of year again. Only 52 days until Christmas! Please ensure that your home address is up-to-date with the office to receive this year's calendar. Calendars will be mailed out early December.

Welcome to SEVS Dr. Plaxton!



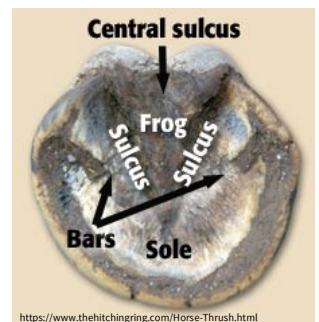
We would like to welcome Dr. Andrea Plaxton to our Swiftsure Team. Dr. Andrea was born and raised here in Victoria. She owns her own equine veterinary practice, Epona Equine Veterinary Services, in Courtenay, BC. Dr. Andrea is very excited to be a part time addition to the Swiftsure Team, covering for Dr. Danica while she is on her short maternity leave.

Dr. Andrea has known Dr. Danica for over 18 years! They attended undergrad together at UBC and later were vet school classmates, graduating together from WCVN in 2008. In her spare time, Dr.

Andrea enjoys her two Warmblood geldings with which she competes in the discipline of Dressage. We really appreciate Dr. Andrea's willingness to come to Victoria and help us over the winter. Please give her a warm welcome!

Thrush in Horses

As the winter wet starts up, our horses – particularly their feet – are exposed to wet, mucky conditions once again. One risk of this weather is the development of a hoof condition called thrush. Thrush is often a mixed infection of bacteria and/or fungus in the frog tissues of horses' hooves. Horses that live in stalls or small paddocks are more likely to develop thrush, as are those with deep, narrow sulci (grooves) alongside and in the center of their frogs. Deep, narrow sulci allow moisture and bacteria-containing debris to accumulate next to the frog tissue, exposing it to infection. Often thrush infections are superficial and do not cause the horse pain. The tell-tale sign of thrush is a dark, pasty discharge from the sulci of the frog, often with an offensive odour. Some cases of thrush can progress to the point of infection of the deeper, more sensitive tissues of the frog causing lameness and the tissue may bleed easily when the hooves are picked.



Treating thrush starts with ensuring moisture and debris are not regularly trapped alongside your horse's frog. This involves regularly picking their feet, having your vet or farrier trim the horse's frog to minimize how deep and narrow the sulci are, and ensuring the horse has a clean, dry area to stand. Many cases also require treatment with topical antibacterial/antifungal products. Dilute iodine, dilute bleach, or commercial products such as Thrush Buster all serve a similar purpose to kill the organisms responsible for the infection. More severe cases may require more in-depth treatment, contact your veterinarian if you are struggling to make headway with your horse's thrush.



The Do's and Don'ts of Colic

Colic, or abdominal pain, is a common emergency we often see with the changing of the season. Although some horses' clinical signs of colic are painfully obvious, triggering the owner to call the veterinarian right away, others exhibit mild signs, reflecting a mild colic, which can resolve with a little change in management and care, and without a visit from the vet. The challenge is that some horses' mild colic signs DO NOT reflect the severity of the colic, which can result in death of the horse if treatment is delayed.



Signs of colic can include any number of the following: a reduced or lost appetite, reduced or absent manure production, change in gut sounds (reduced, absent or increased), change in mucous membrane colour or moisture, looking at sides, stretching, pawing, sweating, trembling, lying down, or rolling. Some horses exhibit unusual signs in response to pain such as exhibiting the flehmen response, gorging on food or running away from the pain. Some horses' signs are so mild, they are hardly evident.

Colic does not discriminate in age, sex, breed, discipline, or environment. Any horse can colic, and most have at least one episode of colic in their lives. Although 90% of colics can resolve with medical or surgical care, owners must be attentive, identify signs of colic quickly and act appropriately.

Here are 10 DOs and DON'Ts when it comes to colic:

1. DO take your horse's vital signs: Rectal Temperature, Heart Rate, Respiratory Rate and Gut Sounds.
2. DO look for the presence, volume, number and consistency of manure in your horse's stall and paddock.
3. DO call the vet immediately regardless of the severity of signs. Have the vital signs and manure information ready to share with the vet.
4. DON'T 'Wait and See' - Delaying treatment can turn mild colic into severe colic and severe colic into untreatable colic.
5. DO closely monitor your horse. Do not go and run errands for a few hours and then check back. Colic can turn from mild to severe within 15 to 20 minutes, so make sure to check on your horse every 15 to 20 minutes.
6. DO walk your horse if it is safe to do so and advised by the vet to stimulate gut motility and prevent rolling.
7. DON'T exercise your horse vigorously as it can exhaust and dehydrate the horse.
8. DON'T offer feed or water unless advised by the vet
9. DON'T medicate without permission from your vet. Medicating before the exam can mask signs and delay proper diagnosis and treatment.
10. DO start thinking about trailering options if referral to a hospital or surgical facility is warranted. Time delays to organize transport can affect the outcome.

The "Take Home Message" is to call the veterinarian at the first signs of colic so that we can determine if your horse can be monitored and managed by you initially or if it warrants a visit right away. DON'T make the mistake of assuming mild signs = mild cause of colic. DO call us immediately at (250) 588-9438 and DON'T text or email.

Welcome Back Jessie!

I am back from maternity leave! The past year has just flown by and I have enjoyed every minute of being a new mom, however I am ready to kick this baby brain and reconnect with everyone and their horses. There has been plenty of exciting change here at SEVS during this past year and I am so excited to be jumping back in with the team. -Jessie



Dr. Danica's Maternity Leave



As you know or may have noticed, Dr. Danica is pregnant! Dr. Danica plans to be available, but off-farm as of November while Dr. Andrea Plaxton will be covering Danica's on-farm work and emergencies. We are more than confident that Dr. Andrea will fill Dr. Danica's shoes for the interim. We are excited to have Dr. Andrea with Team SEVS as she brings a wealth of experience, knowledge and personality. Danica will begin her maternity leave before the winter holidays and will return to work in the early Spring.

Please let us know if you have any particular concerns or questions about how your horse's needs will be met during Danica's maternity leave. Thank you for your continued support for our growing SEVS team and now Danica's growing family.

Christmas Hours at Swiftsure

We will have modified hours between December 24th, 2018 through January 2nd, 2019. We will be available for URGENT and EMERGENCY calls throughout the holiday season. Our office will be open 9am-2pm on December 24th, 27th, 28th and 31st to book appointments and pick up prescriptions. The office will be closed December 25th, 26th and January 1st. Regular business hours will resume January 2nd, 2019. Please make sure all prescriptions are called in and picked up within our modified schedule. Happy Holidays!