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Upcoming Event

Equine Integrative Therapies—
Demonstrations

March 30, 2019 @ 10:30am—12pm

If you would like to learn more about various equine body therapies, such as spinal manipulation, active/passive exercises and acupuncture, please join us at the Victoria Therapeutic Riding Association (6917 Veyaness Road).

Please RSVP to info@swiftsureequine.com. Space is limited! \$10 entry fee per person. Proceeds will be donated to the VTRA.



Photo from <https://turing.manhattan.edu/~ocoppola01/anatomy.html>

Welcome to the World Baby Dawson!

Danica and Dave are proud to announce the birth of their baby boy, Dawson Gabriel Nicholai White. He was born on January 7th, by C-section and weighed 8lbs 14oz.

Dawson is healthy, strong and growing rapidly, in the 85-90th percentile for height, weight and head size. He loves to eat and cuddle. His two older canine siblings are already attached and looking after him lovingly. Danica is recovering rapidly and has been enjoying dog walks with Dawson.

Dr. Danica will be returning to part-time work mid March. Her appointments will be carefully selected as she is still recovering from surgery. We are so pleased that Dr. Andrea has graciously offered to continue to help during this transition period.



Congratulations to Dr. Kaitlin!

Dr. Kaitlin is now proud to provide Spinal Manipulation Therapy!

Dr. Kaitlin has completed her Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Therapy training through the Veterinary Chiropractic Learning Centre and has completed her testing for acceptance to the College of Animal Chiropractors. Through this course, Dr. Kaitlin has expanded her knowledge about neurology, the anatomy of the spine and spinal cord, chiropractic theory and its practical application. Dr. Kaitlin is excited to begin offering this service to our Swiftsure patients starting in March.

Spinal Manipulation Therapy is a relatively low-risk treatment modality that can increase the mobility, flexibility, resilience and comfort of your horse. This treatment can be beneficial for:

- maintenance/preventative treatment for athletic horses to ensure they are using themselves in the most efficient and balanced way possible, thereby minimizing the risk for injury
- horses recovering from or managing an ongoing lameness issue, as an adjunctive treatment
- the function of internal organs, in some cases, as altering the input into the spinal cord can have wide-reaching effects within the animal.

In practicing on her own horse, Dr. Kaitlin has noticed an improvement in Belle's neck flexibility and willingness to give to the left rein. Hopefully this will turn into a few seconds off her course times while showing this summer! If you think your horse may be a good candidate for Spinal Manipulation Therapy, or you'd like to know more about the modality, please reach out to Dr. Kaitlin through our office.

When Horses Choke

Choke is not an uncommon problem in horses, particularly in those with poor teeth or those who eat faster than they chew. While in horses a choke is still a medical emergency, it is not as scary as what many of us initially envision. In horses, choke describes a blockage in the esophagus, not in the trachea. Because of this, a horse who is choked can still breathe. However, a choke should still be dealt with promptly, as the condition is painful and stressful for your horse, and a choked horse has a high risk of aspirating feed and saliva into the trachea, putting them at risk of developing pneumonia.



Photo from <https://equineink.com/2012/01/29/what-to-do-when-your-horse-chokes/>

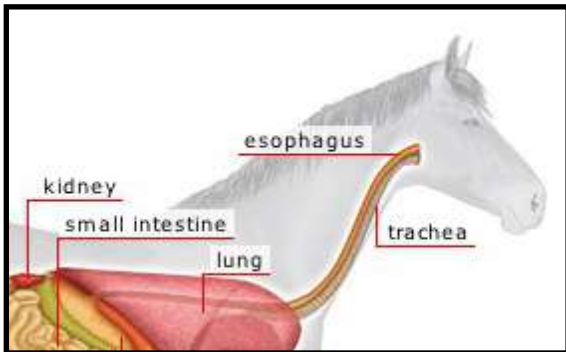


Photo from <https://www.hygain.com.au/horses-digestive-system/>

The classic signs of a choke are coughing, retching, an extended neck posture, saliva +/- feed material draining from the nostrils, an unwillingness to eat, and stress or anxiety. Often your horse will show some or all of these behaviours in the middle of a meal, or shortly thereafter. If you suspect your horse may be choking, remove their feed and water, keep them calm and their head as low as possible to allow saliva and feed to drain out of their nostrils, and call your veterinarian. In some cases mild chokes will resolve on their own, but often the horse requires medical attention to dislodge the blockage in their esophagus.

Your veterinarian will sedate and pass a nasogastric tube through the horse's nostril into their esophagus. Through a combination of gentle pressure and repeated rinsing of water, your vet will remove the blockage. Thankfully serious complications such as pneumonia are rare when chokes are treated in a timely manner.

Meet our staff horses!



Cari (left) and *Dancer* (right) owned by Loranda.



Georgie owned by Kayleigh.

Chikago owned by Dr. Andrea.



Belle owned by Dr. Kaitlin.



Finity owned by Jessie.

Vaccines 101

We vaccinate horses to help provide immunity against disease as part of an annual health plan. Timing of vaccination is dependant on various factors such as duration of immunity provided by the vaccine, expected exposure to specific viruses or bacteria and your horse's current health status.

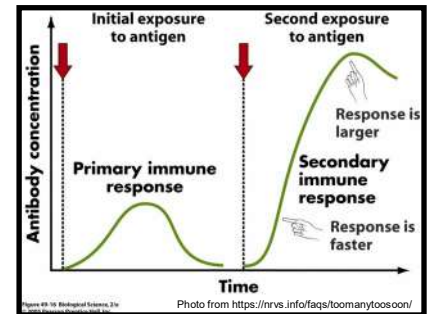


Photo from <https://nrvs.info/faqs/toomanytoosoon/>

It is important to note the duration of protection provided by the vaccine as this will determine the timing of a booster vaccine. This can be especially helpful if you plan to be travelling or showing with your horse.

Vaccines work by stimulating the horse to "turn on" their own immune system. This allows for better ability to resist the agent when re-exposed in the future. We recommend vaccinating your horse 2-3 weeks prior to anticipated exposure.

The effectiveness of a vaccine can be reduced if your horse has poor nutrition, subclinical infection or is under severe stress. It is important to provide supportive care, such as good nutrition, proper housing, fresh water and a clean environment to help maximize your horse's immunity and minimize disease exposure.

A New Team Member: Meet Kayleigh!

We would like to give a warm welcome to our newest team member, Kayleigh! Kayleigh is born and raised in Victoria and found her passion for horses 9 years ago. She joined our team after working for a few years in small animal practices, however, her love for horses drew her to the equine field. In her spare time, she can be found riding her WB mare, Georgie, spending time with friends, family and her pets, or working on marketing projects. Kayleigh is joining our team as a vet assistant and office assistant.

