



IN THIS ISSUE:

- Current Events
- Gastroscope Session
- Parasite Resistance
- Long Term Medication Use
- Show Season Prep

GASTROSCOPE SESSION

Tuesday July 16, 2019
5:30pm–8pm

The VTRA is hosting an evening lecture on Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome. The session will include a gastroscope presentation by Dr. Kaitlin McDonald on healing and preventing the occurrence and re-occurrence of equine ulcers. Refreshments & a light meal provided.

Donations greatly appreciated at the door with proceeds going to the VTRA.

Thank you to everyone who has RSVP'd. This session is now full.

Sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim



Boehringer Ingelheim has released their "Gastrogard Guarantee" for non-glandular ulcers. The company will provide an additional 28 days worth of Gastrogard if the horse's non-glandular ulcers have not healed after being treated with Gastrogard for 28 days. Contact our office for more information if you suspect your horse may have ulcers. (see page 3 for more details)

CURRENT EVENTS

- Dr. Jack Korbelik from North West Veterinary Dermatology Services is now accepting referrals in partnership with Paton & Martin Vet Services. Dr. Korbelik specializes in itch relief and allergy management.
- Thunderbird Show Park recently had an outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus. Be sure to vaccinate and practice proper biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of disease if travelling.
- Legend is currently unavailable, but is expected back this fall. As an exciting alternative, we are offering Hy-50 a comparable product with the same active ingredient (Hyaluronic Sodium) in a higher concentration than Legend. Hy-50 is also administered IV.

PARASITE RESISTANCE

Are you still deworming your horse the same way you have been for decades? Recent research shows that this is contributing to parasite resistance. Indiscriminate use of deworming products kill the worms that are susceptible to the product, but the resistant worms survive and pass on their genes for resistance. The horses then graze and pick up resistant larvae and shed more resistant worm eggs. Yikes!

We recommend doing a Fecal Egg Count (FEC) prior to or instead of deworming. The FEC determines a horse's parasite load and shedding status. Good news is that the majority of horses (>80%) need to be dewormed only once or twice a year!

Why perform a Fecal Egg Count?

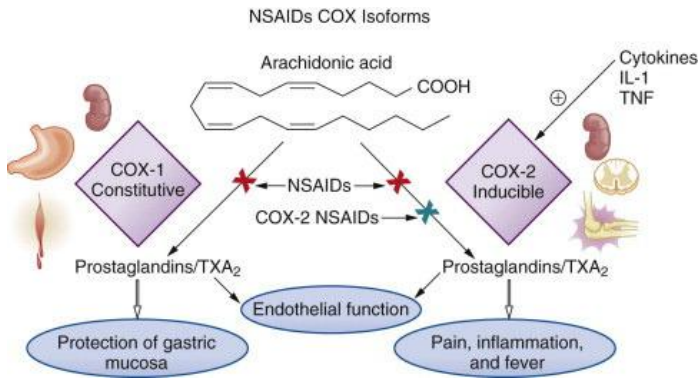
- Determine shedding status to develop a management/deworming plan
- Evaluate if the parasites on your farm are resistant to the administered dewormer
- Minimize the risk of disease caused by parasites
- Control parasite egg shedding on pastures where they can contaminate many horses
- Avoid further development of dewormer resistance



Contact Swiftsure Equine Veterinary Services for more information on parasite management.

LONG TERM MEDICATION USE

Part 1 - NSAIDS



In previous newsletters, we have discussed various chronic conditions such as osteoarthritis (OA) and Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID), and have mentioned treatments for these conditions including Non-Steroidal Anti-Inflammatories (NSAIDs), Legend, and Prascend. However, we have not tackled the topics of HOW or IF these longer-term or life-long medications have any potential side effects, and what we can do to manage them.

NSAIDS are commonly used for acute pain and inflammation as well as for longer-term management of pain associated with OA. Despite their benefits in improving the comfort and mobility of our horses, they also have well-known side effects including gastric ulceration, right dorsal colitis and renal (kidney) injury. Certain non-selective NSAIDS, phenylbutazone (Bute) and flunixin (Banamine), inhibit BOTH of the inflammatory cyclooxygenase enzyme isoforms (COX 1&2). COX-1 is considered important in housekeeping functions including maintaining the integrity of GI mucosa and blood flow to the kidneys. COX-2 is more often associated with inflammation in tissues, although it also serves some housekeeping duties, particularly in the kidneys. COX-2-selective NSAIDS, meloxicam* and firocoxib*, have a COX-1 sparing effect, which is believed to reduce the adverse GI effects. However, these NSAIDS may still have adverse renal effects, at least in those sensitive patients.

So what do we do with this knowledge? Firstly, owners need to be judicious in their use of all NSAIDS, whether they are using selective or non-selective NSAIDS, and only use them as directed by the veterinarian. Secondly, owners should consider using other NSAID-sparing joint support modalities and therapies such as therapeutic farriery, oral supplements, complimentary therapies and injectable medications for joint support such as hyaluronic acid (Legend or Hy50) or pentosan polysulphate (Cartrophen) in order to reduce the frequency and dose of NSAIDS. Thirdly, if NSAIDS are being used long-term to improve the comfort and mobility of our horses, the potential adverse effects on GI integrity and kidney function should be monitored through regular gastroscopy and bloodwork respectively, in consultation with your veterinarian.

*Meloxicam (Metacam) and firocoxib (Previcox) are used off-label in horses in Canada

SHOW SEASON PREP

It's show season! Recently, Dr. Kaitlin shared how she prepares her horse Belle for the show season in our May Case of the Month. As we continue through the show season, we decided to interview veterinary and office assistant Kayleigh to see how she prepares her horse Georgie before a competition.

Check out our May Case of the Month for more show season prep strategies! <https://swiftsureequine.com/may-belle-show-season-prep/>

What do you do to get your horse competition ready?

Before a horse show, I always make sure my horse is up to date on her vaccines, so she has less of a chance of catching any bugs. I also like to ensure she is on a proper diet and appropriate supplements, such as U-Gard, Vitamin E and Zinc. I also make sure she is in an appropriate exercise program, so she is physically able to perform her job. Lastly, I like to have her adjusted (Spinal Manipulation Therapy) and get her pulsed (Pulse Electro-Magnetic Field Therapy) to make sure she is feeling 100%!



What do you do during a horse show to ensure your horse is happy and healthy?

- **Gastrogard before, during and after show** - to help prevent ulcers from being in a stressful environment
- **Magic Cushion Hoof Packing** - to help with potential sore feet while jumping on the grass field and sand rings (different footing than at home)
- **Poultice legs** - to draw out any heat or inflammation caused by the harder surfaces she is jumping on
- **Stable wrap legs** - to decrease any swelling and inflammation from the different footing
- **Electrolytes** - to replenish any loss of fluids and electrolytes from working hard & sweating while competing

What would you recommend that everyone bring with them to a horse show?

A first aid kit! Having an equine first aid kit gives me piece of mind when I'm at a competition as I know I will have what I need in the event of a minor injury. It is never fun when something unexpected happens and it's great to know that I have come prepared. Some of my first-aid kit must-haves include a thermometer, vet wrap, animalintex, and chlorhexadine scrub!



Photo Credit: Soul Touch Photography

Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health (BIAH) is committed to GASTROGARD[®] as an efficacious treatment for Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS).

If a horse that is properly treated with a 28-day course of GASTROGARD[®] is demonstrated to have remaining non-glandular ulcers post treatment, BIAH will provide a repeat 28-day treatment course of GASTROGARD[®] at no charge.

The GASTROGARD[®] Customer Satisfaction Program is subject to the following conditions:

- GASTROGARD[®] must be prescribed and dispensed by a licensed Canadian veterinarian and administered in accordance with the package directions.
- To qualify, a 28-day GASTROGARD[®] treatment at 4mg/kg once daily is required.
- Identification and diagnosis of remaining non-glandular ulcers following a 28-day treatment with GASTROGARD[®] must be confirmed via gastroscopy and details provided to BIAH as support.
- The post-treatment gastroscopy should be done no more than one week after the last dose of GASTROGARD[®] (day 28) to qualify for this offer.
- Proof of purchase of the original 28-day GASTROGARD[®] treatment must be provided and qualifies for one additional 28-day treatment course of GASTROGARD[®] only.
- Claims should be submitted by the treating veterinarian to BIAH Pharmacovigilance at www.bivetpv.ca or BIAH Technical Service veterinarians. (1-888-550-5395)
- This offer applies to residents of Canada during the 2019 calendar year and applies only to Canadian labelled GASTROGARD[®] products.