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Upcoming Seminars

With spring approaching, we are getting ready to host a variety of lectures. Here is a sample of what our clients can look forward to!

**Updates in Equine Dermatology:
Allergies to Tumours – An
Update on Diagnostic and
Therapeutic Options with Dr.
Anthony Yu**

Date: June 11, 2020



**Equine Integrative Therapies
Date: TBD**



**Equine Dental Seminar
Date: TBD**

Stay tuned for more details!

PRP & ProStride

We are very excited to announce that Swiftsure Equine is now able to offer PRP and ProStride treatments AT YOUR FARM!

PRP

PRP, or Platelet Rich Plasma, is a concentrate of platelets from a sample of the horse's own blood then processed in a specific manner. Platelets are a very powerful component of blood which, when activated, release a variety of growth factors and cytokines to attract other healing cells to the area. If a tendon or a ligament has a "core lesion" within it, it typically is an excellent candidate for PRP therapy. Injecting PRP into a tendon or ligament injury can both speed the healing process and help the injury heal more effectively (ie. with less scar tissue), making it less prone to re-injury. The PRP treatment is best used in combination with a tailored rest and rehabilitation program to give the horse the very best chance at a full recovery.

ProStride

ProStride effectively combines PRP with naturally occurring anti-inflammatory molecules like Interleukin-1 Receptor Antagonist Protein (IRAP) and Tumor Necrosis Factor (TNF- α). This makes for a potent anti-inflammatory product that also promotes repair of damaged tissues. Like the PRP, this product is made from a sample of the horse's own blood, processed in a specific way.

ProStride makes an excellent alternative to steroid joint injections for those horses who cannot safely have steroids due to metabolic disease, who have a combination of arthritis and soft tissue injury, or who are not responding to intra-articular steroids as well as they once were.



Source: <https://www.omveterinary.com/pro-stride>



Our Swiftsure Equine family has grown again! Jessie and her husband Graham welcomed a baby boy Ethan into their family on February 15 - the same birthday as Danica's! We are so excited for Jessie and her family and want to wish her all the best while she is on maternity leave. While Jessie is away, Kayleigh will be stepping into her role as practice manager, so clients can continue to expect a friendly face in the office and familiar voice on the phone.

If you are interested in learning more about these new products, or think your horse may be a candidate for treatment, please contact the office for more information.

Sarcoids

Sarcoids are the most common skin tumour (representing 36% of all skin tumours and 20% of all tumours) in the horse. At best, they can be “benign” cosmetic blemishes; at worst, they are aggressive skin tumours that do not respond to treatment, come back with vengeance, and interfere with horse movement or tack placement.

There are six different types:

- **Nodular** – solid nodules, single or multiples, variable sizes, can ulcerate
- **Occult** – semi-circular, flat, grey, hairless
- **Verrucose** – “warty or cauliflower-like”, grey, crusty, may contain small nodules, involve large ill-defined area, or ulcerate
- **Fibroblastic** – pink fleshy masses that bleed or ooze easily
- **Malevolent** – rare, aggressive tumour that spreads extensively throughout skin
- **Mixed** – combination of two or more other types

We now know that sarcoids are associated with the Bovine Papillomavirus, spread by flies from infected cattle or possibly other horses. It remains unclear how the virus leads to the neoplastic change in the tissue. We also know there are hereditary and genetic factors that predispose horses to developing these tumours. But unlike melanomas, there is no colour or gender bias.

They most often appear on the head, neck, chest, abdomen, and inguinal regions. They can also develop at sites of previous scars. Diagnosis of sarcoids can sometimes be challenging when they are not the classic nodular or “warty” types, i.e. sarcoids can appear like any type of skin blemish. Ideally, we would depend on a skin biopsy to confirm diagnosis, but this procedure can aggravate tumours, worsening the disease, and making treatment more difficult. Luckily researchers in Europe are working on a blood test to find certain genetic markers to make diagnosis simpler.

Treatment options are numerous with varying success rates depending on the type of tumour, size, location, and individual horse factors. Typically treatments focus on either immunomodulation, chemotherapy, surgery, radiotherapy, or in combination. There is no single treatment that works best for a specific tumour or horse, so careful selection of treatment, if any, should be discussed with your veterinarian or dermatology specialist.

If you have a horse that you suspect has a sarcoid, and are interested in treatment, there is currently a special offer by the company that sells Immunocidin. Please contact our office for more details.



Occult

https://www.ed.ac.uk/files/imports/file_manager/sarcoids.pdf



Verrucose

<https://www.equisearch.com/HorseJournal/sarcoids-23623>



Nodular

<https://www.debenvalleyvet.co.uk/information-summary/sarcoids/>



Fibroblastic

<https://wheredoesmyhorsehurt.com/horse-problems-database/head-and-neck/sarcoids/>



Malevolent

<http://www.localriding.com/horse-sarcoids.html>