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Upcoming Seminars

Unfortunately due to COVID-19, we have had to postpone all upcoming seminars. Stay tuned for future announcements!

New Product - Farmers Own Flax Oil

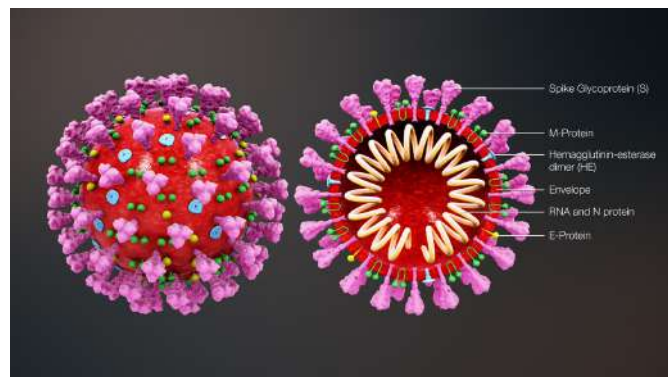
*Certified Organic
Cold-Pressed
100% Pure Flax Oil
Made in Canada
Available in a 4L jug*



Can Horses Get Coronavirus?

By now Coronavirus awareness and prevention is a part of our daily routine. This group of viruses gets its name based on their crown-like shape seen with an electron microscope. We've learned there have been several species of domestic animals shown to be susceptible to COVID-19 including dogs, cats, and some small rodents. There is no evidence to suggest that animals infected by humans are playing a role in the spread of disease. Livestock, including horses, are not known to be susceptible and there are no known cases of transmission between humans and horses.

We have known for several years that horses have their own strain of Coronavirus, Equine Coronavirus (ECoV), but this is NOT the same as COVID-19. ECoV is primarily a gastrointestinal disease in horses that is spread through fecal-oral transmission. There is NO evidence of possible transmission to humans or other animals. ECoV causes gastrointestinal disease in horses. Clinical signs include fever, lack of appetite, depression, colic, and/or diarrhea. It has a relatively low frequency within the equine population and severity of disease is generally low though more complicated infections can occur. Primary treatment is through supportive care and may include IV fluid therapy in severe cases. Prognosis is good for most horses though as an infectious disease, it is important to take appropriate biosecurity measures when ECoV infection is suspected. Currently there is no vaccine for ECoV.



A New 'K' Team Member!

SEVS has gained new veterinarian! We are pleased and excited to welcome Dr. Katy White to our practice. Now we have a Kaitlin, Kayleigh and Katy working as part of our Swiftsure Equine Team. That's a lot of K names and they ALL happen to be blonde! We thought it would be fun to compare and contrast each of our K named team members to help our clients avoid some expected confusion.

Name: **Katy**
Position at SEVS:
Veterinarian



Fun Facts About Katy:

- Katy grew up in Banff, AB, competitively 3-day evented, and attended vet school at U of Calgary
- Katy enjoys downhill skiing
- Katy spent a year training and competing young sport and racehorses on a breeding farm in New Zealand
- Katy married Colby, a watershed ecologist, in May 2019 in Banff, AB. They spend their spare time exploring the outdoors with their dog "Trout".

Distinguishing Features: Katy often wears eye glasses and wears her LONG blonde hair in a pony tail or braid.

Why Katy Chose the Veterinary Industry:

Since my first back-country horseback trip as a toddler, I always felt a strong connection to horses. During my time training young sport and racehorses for sale, the importance of equine health and welfare became more evident. I worked in a variety of areas of veterinary medicine including small animal emergency practice, rural mixed animal practice, and humanitarian veterinary work in Kenya. However, my passion for horses has never wavered. While earning my DVM from the U of Calgary, I specifically pursued my interest in sports medicine through student positions and externships at referral equine hospitals in Canada and the USA. I'm joining Swiftsure Equine after a year internship at Littleton Equine Medical Center in Colorado where I've gained training in equine emergencies, internal medicine, surgery, and sports medicine. I'm happy to be back in Canada, and particularly in Victoria where I spent 5 years working and attending U of Victoria.

Name: **Kaitlin**
Position at SEVS:
Veterinarian



Fun Facts About Kaitlin:

- Kaitlin grew up in Edmonton AB, jumped competitively, and attended vet school at U of Calgary
- Kaitlin loves to waterski and wakeboard
- Kaitlin competes in jumpers with her bay Warmblood mare Belle
- Kaitlin married Adam, a wildlife and emergency veterinarian in August 2019 in Jasper AB. They enjoy exploring the outdoors with their dogs Glia and Scout.

Distinguishing Features: Kaitlin wears her blonde hair in a ponytail and often sports cool earrings.

Why Kaitlin Chose the Veterinary Industry:

I was drawn to the medical field from an early age, and originally had my sights set on human medicine, figuring that horses would remain my hobby. However, during my undergrad degree, I came to realize that medical school wasn't where she wanted to be. After finishing my physiology degree, I pursued training in equine massage and worked as a groom for a hunter jumper trainer for 3 years while expanding my massage business. During that time, I had the pleasure of working closely with several very talented veterinarians and being involved in cases from start to finish. Seeing what veterinary medicine could do for our equine athletes, piqued my interest in returning to medicine, but this time aiming for vet school rather than med school. And, as they say, the rest is history.

Name: **Kayleigh**
Position at SEVS:
**Temporary Practice
Manager &
Veterinary
Assistant**



Fun Facts About Kayleigh:

- Kayleigh grew up in Victoria, BC, jumped competitively and earned her Bachelor's degree in Bus Admin and Marketing
- Kayleigh has her own small marketing business
- Kayleigh has a bay Warmblood mare, Georgie, with whom she jumps and trains in dressage
- Kayleigh has adopted an abandoned cat named "Nasty" – a once unfriendly feline who now loves snuggles!

Distinguishing Features: Kayleigh is blondest and often wears her hair down. She is often seen wearing the colour pink.

Why Kayleigh Chose the Veterinary Industry:

I originally had my heart set on being a veterinarian so I could help animals at all stages of their lives, but quickly realized that calculus isn't my forte and I didn't want to be the one to poke animals with needles. In 2014, I accepted a receptionist position at a small animal emergency hospital and realized I could be a part of the industry without being a veterinarian. From there, I have had the opportunity to work in small animal emergency, small animal general practice and now at Swiftsure Equine. I was drawn to working at SEVS for the opportunity to learn all about equine medicine. The fact that I get to be both out on farm calls assisting with procedures and working in the office is the best of both worlds!

COVID-19: Moving Forward

We would like to thank our wonderful clients for their patience and understanding as we have made efforts to adapt to the new normal during the COVID-19 outbreak. As medical doctors, veterinarians, and researchers around the world work to understand this virus better, we understand that finding clear, up-to-date information on keeping yourselves and your animals healthy can be difficult.

At this time, the COVID-19 pandemic has been driven by person-to-person contact. As such, the primary priority should be decrease the risk of transmission between people by wearing protective gear (masks, gloves, etc.), frequent hand washing, social distancing, and minimized use of shared equipment or thorough disinfection.

Please take a moment to review our updated practice policies for the next 12 to 18 months.

Appointment Protocols

Please either do not attend or reschedule your appointment if you have been experiencing any cold, flu or COVID-19 like symptoms, have traveled internationally within 14 days prior to your appointment, or have been exposed to a positive COVID-19 case. We also ask to reschedule your appointment if anyone who handles or cares for your horse has been exhibiting these symptoms, has returned from international travel or may have been exposed to a positive case. Please be advised that you will be asked these questions both at the time of appointment booking and upon arrival at the farm.

All clients are kindly asked to remain at least 2 metres away from all staff members and practice vehicles while at appointments. Veterinary assistants will handle horses for the Veterinarian or owners will be asked to tie or crosstie their horse for the exam. If a 2-metre distance cannot be maintained, it is recommended that clients wear a mask or face covering. During after-hours emergencies, Veterinarians will be wearing masks if a 2-metre distance cannot be maintained with the handler or owner.

Please have only one (1) person present at your appointment – this will help us limit the number of people we interact with. If others are present at your appointment, we ask that they stay at a distance greater than 2 meters from the veterinary staff, the horse and the practice vehicle until the appointment has finished.

Sanitation Protocols

All staff members are responsible for frequent hand washing and sanitizing, and this will be conducted before, during and after all appointments. We will preferably use our own halter or will avoid touching the horse's halter, lead rope, blanket, and other high-touch sites such as gate and crosstie latches. Those items we do come into close contact with will be disinfected by our staff after use.

No direct physical contact will be permitted between veterinary staff and clients such as handshaking or hugging. And although we appreciate the offer, we ask that clients do not assist with carrying veterinary equipment or supplies to or from the vehicles.

Please refrain from using cash or cheques as forms of payment. Ideally, we ask that you phone in a credit card prior to their appointment or use our payment processing machine on farm for debit, Visa, or MasterCard transaction. Our payment processing machine will be routinely sanitized between each use.

Prescription Protocols

Our office will be closed to the public for the foreseeable future. Prescriptions will be available for curbside pick up at pre-scheduled appointment times during our office hours. Kayleigh will be routinely disinfecting our pickup box between each client. Prescriptions may also be dropped off on farm.

Prescriptions will be disinfected before being given to clients. While on farm, prescriptions being left for clients will be left in a nearby location after sanitizing or staff members will remain at an arm's length when passing clients prescriptions directly.

We appreciate your understanding during these unprecedented times and look forward to seeing everyone again for routine appointments!

If you have any questions about ECoV, or COVID-19 we encourage you to browse the following resources or reach out with specific questions. Thank you again for your support during this time, wishing everyone a safe and healthy summer!

Resources

- **The Horse – COVID-19 Resources for Horse Owners:**

<https://thehorse.com/features/covid-19-resources-for-horse-owners/>

- **AAEP Equine Coronavirus Fact Sheet:**

https://aaep.org/sites/default/files/DiseaseFactsheet_Coronavirus%20Equine%20EDCC-AAEP.pdf

- **AVMA COVID-19 FAQ:** https://www.avma.org/sites/default/files/2020-03/covid-19-faq-pet-owners_031520.pdf

- **OAHN – Caring for your horse during a pandemic:** <https://oahn.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/COVID-19-Caring-for-your-horse-during-a-pandemic-finalxx.pdf>

- **BC CDC COVID-19 Resources:** <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

- **Government of Canada – Animals and COVID-19:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevention-risks/animals-covid-19.html>