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Our New Haul-In Facility!



We are very excited to finally offer haul-in services for our clients and patients in early 2023. If you haven't already been to our clinic office, we are located at 1765 McTavish Road in North Saanich. There is space available inside our heated and well lit barn for standing exams, a beautiful set of stocks that were designed by Dr Danica and custom built by her husband, and a treatment stall with a remote camera. Outside we have ample parking including a circular driveway for your trailer (no backing up needed)!

At our facility we will be able to offer routine exams, standing surgical procedures such as dental extractions, eye enucleations and breeding services in our stocks, as well as IV fluid therapy and monitoring in our treatment stall. With few exceptions, we will be able to offer all veterinary services that we perform at other farms (and maybe a few more). Any client wanting to save on farm call fees is welcome to bring their horses to us. And for those clients without trailers, we have compiled a list of local haulers for hire.

It has been a long term goal finally coming to fruition and we will be delighted to see our first patient walk through our bay door in early 2023.

2023 Calendars

Our 2023 calendars are on their way! Keep an eye out in your mailbox for your calendar. If you have moved recently, now is the perfect time to update your address in our file to ensure your calendar is going to the correct mailing address (and for us to maintain up-to-date files)!



SEVS Holiday Hours

December is here & so are the holidays. Below you'll find our SEVS holiday hours.

December 19th - 22nd: Regular office & veterinarian hours

December 23rd: Office hours 9am - 2pm

December 24th - 26th: CLOSED

December 27th - 30th: Office hours 9am - 2pm

December 31st - January 1st: CLOSED

Regular office & veterinarian hours resume January 2nd, 2023

A veterinarian will be on-call for emergencies and urgent appointments during this time.

Insulin Resistance Updates

Insulin Resistance (IR) can be a difficult disease for our clients and patients alike. It can have devastating impacts on our horses' health and comfort, and owners often struggle to manage it through diet and exercise, particularly when low NSC hay is unavailable and exercise is limited due to IR-associated laminitis. But there are new tools that can help to manage our IR horses. There are medications available as well as new insulin testing that gives you results right away - no more waiting!

Three medications have been shown to help control insulin levels using different pathways. Levothyroxin can help elevate a horse's metabolic rate, reducing weight and excess fat. Metformin can blunt a horse's absorption of glucose during digestion and thus decrease the post-prandial insulin spike. Invokana (canagliflozin) acts by increasing glucose excretion from the kidneys, thus lowering blood glucose and insulin response.

There is now stall-side insulin testing available. It can be used to measure not only a horse's resting insulin levels but also can evaluate their insulin responses to certain feeds, hay, pasture etc. This can assist owners in pinpointing the causative agents - no more guessing involved, and the best part, no more waiting 2 weeks for results - the test reads the blood sample in only a few minutes.

Another very useful application of this test will be immediately prior to a steroid injection. Historically we would be wary of administering steroids to any overweight horse, pony or mini, as there is risk of triggering a steroid-induced laminitis if they had undiagnosed elevated insulin levels. We also know that there is a subgroup of horses, maintained at normal body weights, that also have elevated insulin levels. We may not learn of their IR status until after triggering laminitis from a steroid injection. Being able to test horses before steroid administration affords all of us some peace of mind.



For more information on IR, see our Sept 2017 newsletter available at www.swiftsureequine.com

Veterinarian Continuing Education

With the removal of travel restrictions, our veterinarians have again been able to attend local seminars, international conventions and other educational programs IN PERSON this year (in addition to the virtual programs offered the last two years). All three veterinarians, Drs Danica, Kaitlin and Reina, attended the 49th annual Delta Equine Seminar with two internationally recognized speakers, Dr Knottenbelt who spoke about skin diseases and Dr Bladon who spoke about difficulties in lameness diagnostics. Dr Danica was also able to attend the annual American Association of Equine Practitioners convention held this year in San Antonio Texas where she joined over 5000 other equine practitioners in 4 days of lectures and discussions and attended their large trade show with over 300 exhibitors offering the gamut of equine veterinary products. While she was there, Dr Danica also updated her skills in an ultrasound lab on the stifle, pastern and hoof offered by the International Society of Equine Locomotor Pathology. Overall it has been a welcome return of on-site and hands-on educational programs where our vets can reconnect with colleagues, learn new skills and updated information, and bring back a few new tools and toys to the practice.



Parade Time!

Lena and the Saanich 4-H Horse Club brought 8 miniature horses and 2 dogs to make their way through the Sidney Santa Parade on December 4th, promoting their club to the public. The girls highly enjoyed decorating the minis in bells, garlands, lights, and even antlers!

The miniature horses were the most talked about section of the whole parade!

