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The entire SEVS team is wishing everyone a happy & healthy holiday season & a joyous 2025!

Holiday Hours



The 2024 holiday season is fast approaching and that means that our office will have reduced hours to allow our staff a much needed holiday break! If your horse will be running out of prescription medication during the holidays, please contact the office as soon as possible. **Emergency care will be available to clients over the holidays - please CALL us if you think your horse is experiencing an emergency.**

December 23rd-24th: Office open 9am - 2pm - ER & Urgent Appointments Only

December 25th-26th: CLOSED - ER Only

December 27th: Office open 9am - 2pm - ER & Urgent Appointments Only

December 30th-31st: Office open 9am-2pm - ER & Urgent Appointments Only

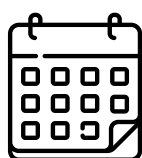
January 1st: CLOSED - ER Only

January 2nd-3rd: Office open 8:30am-5pm - ER & Urgent Appointments Only



Calendars

Our 2025 Calendars are here at the office but unfortunately with the ongoing Canada Post strike, we are unable to mail them out at this time. Alternatively you are welcome to pick your calendar up at your next visit to the office.



Townsend Equine Research Fund at the Wester College of Veterinary Medicine

In 2024, SEVS donated \$4000 to the Townsend Fund for Equine Research. These funds have helped support these recent studies at WCVM:

- *Can troponin testing help vets diagnose heart disease in horses?*

This study aims to improve the diagnosis of myocardial (heart) disease in Saskatchewan horses by developing reference intervals in healthy horses and implementing a point-of-care troponin test in hospitalized patients.

- *How do iodine-based diets impact the thyroid health of mares and foals?*

In this study, WCVM researchers are continuing their work to determine how low-iodine and iodine-based diets affect the thyroid health of mares and foals.

- *How can we better diagnose intestinal parasites in horses and which ones are becoming resistant?*

WCVM researchers will use DNA of parasites in fecal samples to identify parasite species shed by horses before and after treatment with deworming medication.

Visit the Townsend Equine Health Research Fund website to see all the great research and clinical studies they have achieved - <https://tehrf.ca>

WCVM 4th Year Student Externships

We would like to extend our gratitude to our clients who welcomed some 4th year veterinary students from WCVM to examine and treat their horses. For the last 2 years SEVS has been offering a 2 week externship rotation through the WCVM for any equine-focused 4th year veterinary students to gain some hands-on and real-life experience. The rotation has been very popular and beneficial to the students we've welcomed, and that is big thanks to our wonderful clients. Here is what some students had to say about our rotation:

"Being able to work with SEVS and their clients was one of the best experiences I had in my final year as a veterinary student. The hands-on skills I was able to practice, such as performing dentals, passing nasogastric tubes, and assisting in lameness exams, coupled with the respect and kindness of the clients and clinic staff ultimately led me to pursue a career in equine medicine. Since graduating from veterinary school, I have been completing an equine internship with the goal of fine-tuning and augmenting the equine veterinary skills I was able to practice and observe at SEVS. Clinics and clients that are willing to teach students, like you, play a vital part in inspiring the next generation of equine veterinarians. Thank you for inspiring me and allowing future students to find their calling."

- Dr Taylor Ross, WCVM Class of 2024

"During my externship at SEVS, I had an incredibly rewarding experience, gaining invaluable hands-on opportunities with various equids on the island. The appointments I was involved in allowed me to apply the knowledge I've learned in school, bridging the gap between theory and practice, and each opportunity taught me something new that will help me be a better veterinarian for future patients. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone I had the pleasure of meeting, from the knowledgeable, passionate veterinarians to the dedicated clients, and their amazing horses. Each interaction, whether big or small, contributed to my growth and strengthened my passion for equine medicine. This experience has truly emphasized the importance of real-world learning in shaping the confident and compassionate veterinarians we aspire to become."

- Bailey Brazeau, WCVM Class of 2025

"I thoroughly enjoyed my time with SEVS. I highly valued this rotation as a fourth-year veterinarian student as they provided me the opportunity to enhance my skillsets with their hands-on practical approach to teaching. This rotation further allowed me to connect to the clients and their equine partners on a personal level that enhanced my love for the equine industry. This rotation comes highly recommended for future fourth year students who are aspiring to become equine veterinarians."

- Carissa Shumborski WCVM Class of 2024

"My time at SEVS was an invaluable part of my educational journey on my way to obtaining my DVM. The clientele I had the pleasure of meeting and working with were very welcoming and allowed me to participate in the care of their beloved horses. One particularly interesting case I was fortunate to be involved in was a chronic laminitis case that we performed a Venogram on. This involves using contrast material and radiographs to image the blood supply to the hoof. The patient himself was an absolute gentleman and his owner was a pleasure to work with. The knowledge I gained in being involved in his care that day will be of great benefit to my patients in the near future. I want to say thank you to all the clients for welcoming me in my time at SEVS."

- Chelsey Wood, WCVM Class of 2025

When to Blanket? Equine Preference in Weather and Wardrobe



It is generally understood that horses are "normothermic", a technical term for comfortable, at temperatures between 5°-25°, as long as they are dry. In a 2016 behavioural study, researchers took this a step further and investigated the cognitive abilities of horses, specifically their capacity to learn and express preferences. The study involved 22 horses and was conducted by a single, experienced trainer. The trainer taught the horses to associate wooden signs with symbols indicating whether a blanket would be put on, left on, or removed. All the horses appeared to quickly learn the task and its associations.

Subsequent observational studies, conducted in different weather conditions and temperatures, revealed that the horses were able to communicate their preferences based on the environmental conditions. In rainy, windy or otherwise inclement conditions (at 5° and 9°), 20 of the 22 horses "requested" a blanket by signaling for it to be put on or left on if it was already in place. In colder weather of sleet or snow (at -1° and -12°) all 22 horses preferred to be blanketed. Conversely, on milder days with pleasant weather (at 20° and 23°), nearly all of the horses indicated a preference for their blanket to be removed if they were wearing one, or not to have one put on if they were bare. Additionally, horses that expressed a preference for removing their blankets were often found to be sweaty underneath, indicating they were too warm for the blanket.

These findings demonstrated the horses' cognitive ability to learn associations and communicate preferences. The study also suggested that horses understand how a blanket influences their thermoregulation. The results supported the researchers' hypothesis that horses would prefer a blanket in cold weather or bad conditions, but not in milder temperatures.