

# Comstock

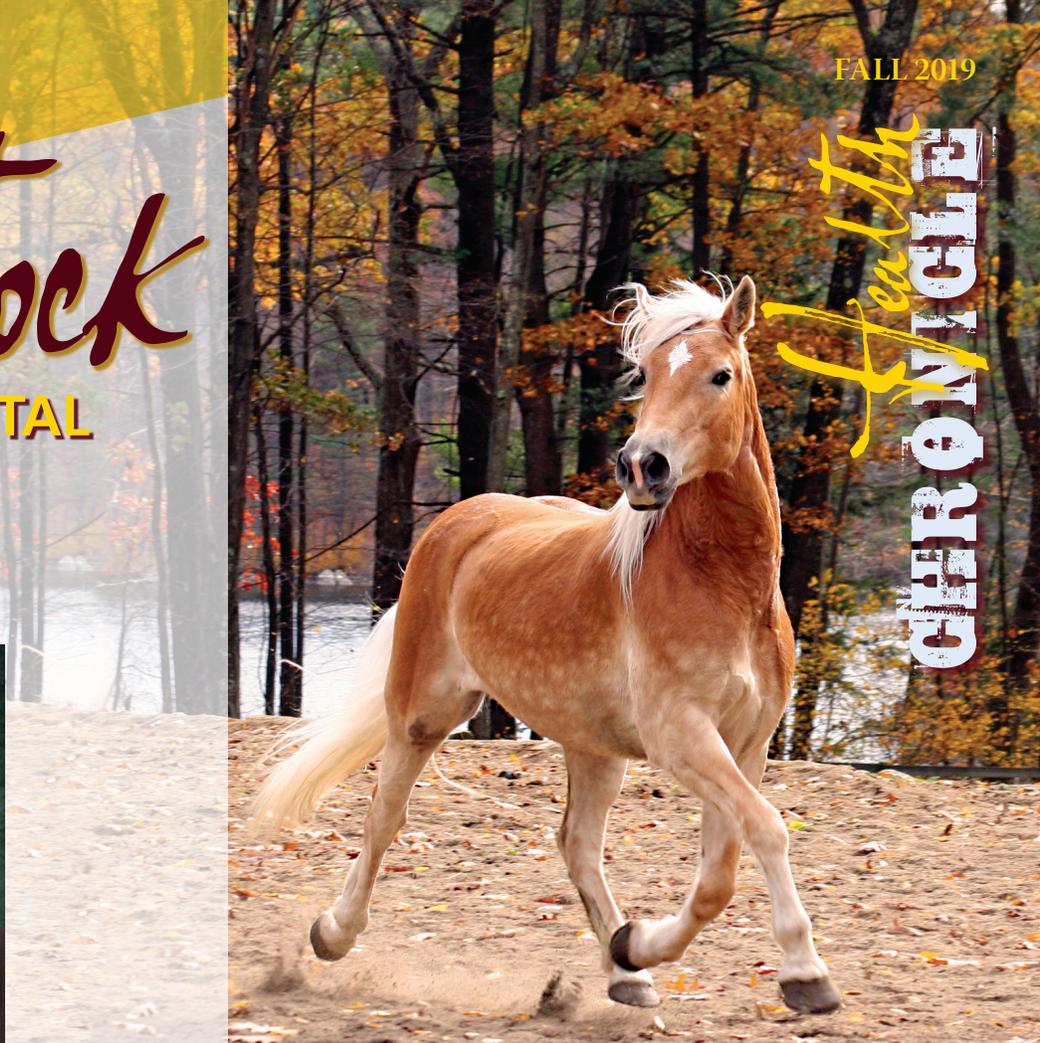
## EQUINE HOSPITAL



**Dr. Danielle Cucuzella**



**Dr. Ty Blanche**



## Welcome Dr. Cucuzella

**Dr. Danielle Cucuzella** is a native of Gilbert, Arizona. She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Midwestern University College of Veterinary Medicine. She joins us for a year long equine medicine and surgery. Her professional interests include reproduction medicine, emergency medicine and herd health. In her free time, Dr. Cucuzella likes to camp, fish, off-road, and hike with her two rescue dogs Olive and Sonic. She is also an avid photographer. *Welcome Dr. Cucuzella!*

We are so excited to announce that **Dr. Ty Blanche** is staying on as an associate veterinarian. Dr. Blanche completed a year long equine medicine and surgery internship with us. She has a strong interest in health maintenance, wound management, dentistry and small ruminants. She is currently seeing appointments at both Comstock Equine Hospital and Great Basin Equine.

## GOING GREEN

We are working towards a more ecofriendly practice by reducing paper mailers and invoices. Please make sure we have a current email address for your account when you call to schedule your fall vaccinations. Our goal is to switch to a digital flyer in the next few years.

## EHV 1 Update

*Kelsey M. Tanner DVM*

In March of this year, an outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) occurred in Nevada. A total of 12 infected horses were reported, including two horses exhibiting neurologic signs, and one horse who aborted. Over a course of 6 weeks a total of 9 premises were placed under quarantine, resulting in over 125 horses being placed under hold. State veterinarians in Nevada and surrounding states coordinated efforts to prevent further spread of the disease. Although the outbreak was effectively controlled, many horse owners still have questions. Here we will provide information on what to look for, and how to prevent your horses from being affected.

### What is Equine Herpes Virus?

EHV (Equine Herpes Virus) is a family of viruses that causes disease in horse populations around the world. There are two main viruses that pose a threat to domestic horses, EHV 1 and EHV 4. Both viruses can manifest as respiratory disease, neurologic disease, and abortion.

### How do horses catch EHV?

The primary mode of transmission is via respiratory secretions, but it can also be spread through abortion materials. Respiratory secretions can be from direct contact between two horses, or it can be through fomites, which are objects that come into contact with a diseased horse. Fomites would include tack, grooming supplies, and water buckets. Even humans can be fomites! The virus can survive for 7-30 days in the environment, so proper sanitation is extremely important when dealing with this incredibly infectious disease.

### What can I do to prevent my horse from getting infected?

Proper biosecurity and vaccination are the most powerful preventatives you can provide to your horse. Do not share any grooming equipment, or water buckets when at a show or event, and clean your trailer regularly. The virus is sensitive to most household disinfectants, so thorough cleaning will decrease the presence of the virus in the environment. Remember to remove organic matter with a detergent or soap prior to disinfecting for maximal effect. Call your veterinarian to formulate a detailed biosecurity plan.

For most horses we currently recommend vaccination against EHV twice annually, and this creates an immunity that lasts approximately 3-6 months. Special vaccines for pregnant mares are recommended at 5, 7, and 9 months of pregnancy, with an additional vaccine approximately 4 weeks prior to foaling. Vaccines have been shown to help prevent respiratory disease and abortion, but currently there is not a vaccine available to prevent neurologic disease, caused by EHV.

### What should I do if I suspect my horse has EHV?

Signs of disease include fever, enlarged lymph nodes, respiratory signs (cough, nasal discharge), neurologic signs (poor balance, inability to urinate normally), and abortion. If your horse is showing symptoms that may be consistent with EHV, you should contact your vet immediately. Be ready to report a history of any recent travel, contact with other horses, and specific symptoms your horse is exhibiting. If you are comfortable, you can take your horse's temperature and report that as well. Your veterinarian will come out and do a very thorough physical exam, and may collect samples for testing. Be sure to isolate your horse from any other horses on the property and use appropriate biosecurity protocols outlined by your vet. 🐾

*\*Special thanks to state veterinarian, Dr. JJ Goicoechea, for information provided in this article.*

## Colic - Is Surgery an Option?

*Kristi M. Stone DVM cVMA*

Colic is one of the most common ailments we see as veterinarians. Colic can range from a mild belly ache to a very painful twist of the intestines. Signs of colic can vary from very mild to very extreme. Mild signs may include decreased appetite, decreased fecal output, and decreased water intake. You may also notice firm dry feces or even diarrhea. Horses will often paw, look at their sides, stretch out as if they need to urinate, and/or lie down quietly. Severe colics may paw, roll, or thrash around. If you see these signs, you should get your horse up walking to prevent them from hurting themselves. Briefly note whether they have eaten, how much water they have consumed, and if they have passed feces. Once you have done so, call your veterinarian.

Initial treatment of colic is similar whether you are in the field or at the hospital. A full physical exam will be performed to help the veterinarian determine the severity and possible underlying cause. The horse will then most likely be sedated in order to facilitate the upcoming treatments and help to break the pain cycle occurring within the horse. A nasogastric tube will be passed in order to check for stomach reflux. Reflux forms when there is decreased forward movement of the gastrointestinal contents. This can occur due to a blockage or simply due to ileus, a decrease in gastrointestinal motility. Water, electrolytes, and/or oil may be given at this time via the tube in order to help rehydrate the horse. It is important to pass a nasogastric tube due to the fact that horses cannot vomit. If there is a large amount of fluid in the stomach, no additional fluids will be given via the tube, as we don't want to cause the stomach to rupture. A rectal exam will also be performed. An abnormal rectal exam may indicate that the colon is not sitting in the correct location, the colon may be impacted with firm feces or sand, or there is a significant amount of gas present. Depending on the initial workup, further diagnostics such as full abdominal ultrasound and abdominal paracentesis or "belly tap" may be performed. Again, depending on the severity of the colic, intravenous fluid therapy is the next step in medical management. Fluid therapy helps rehydrate the horse, improves blood pressure and vascular perfusion, and helps increase intestinal motility.

A horse's pain level and laboratory tests are indicators that medical management is not working. If a horse continues to be painful despite intravenous fluids and pain management, surgery is the next step. This is one of the hardest questions for many owners to answer. Is surgery an option for your horse? This is a question that owners should consider prior to their horse experiencing any signs of colic. It can be a very emotional time when your horse is painful and in distress. There are many factors that need to be considered when asking this question. Is surgery financially an option? Is your horse a healthy candidate? What lesion is suspected? Your veterinarian can help give you a prognosis prior to surgery based on your horse's condition. However, we often come back to the question of whether colic surgery is financially feasible or not.

We recognize that colic surgery is expensive and want you to know there are options. While you may be familiar with traditional insurance plans, there are two major companies that help provide coverage should colic surgery be necessary. Both Smart Pack ColiCare and Platinum Performance Colic Coverage offer financial backing for colic surgery. Both companies have basic requirements that ensure your horse is receiving overall maintenance care. Smart Pack ColiCare covers up to \$10,000 for colic surgery and can be used in conjunction with any current equine insurance. Platinum Performance will cover up to \$8,000 or \$10,000 for colic surgery, depending on which formulations you choose and can also be used with your equine insurance. There is no upper age limit, and each program has only a few restrictions. It should be noted that neither program covers non-surgical colic.

Enrollment is simple. First, choose which supplement you would like to use; second, enroll in the program; and third, continue with annual veterinary care such as wellness exams, vaccines, deworming, and dental care as needed. It is important to familiarize yourself with each program's requirements so that you stay current should you need to utilize them. There is no fee to enroll in either program, only the cost of the supplements. For further information please visit [www.smartpakequine.com](http://www.smartpakequine.com) and follow the links to ColiCare or [www.platinumperformance.com](http://www.platinumperformance.com) and follow the links to Platinum Colic Coverage. Both companies offer great products and great reimbursement programs. We hope this may be of benefit to you should you need it in the future! 🐾

# FALL VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

AREA	DAY	DATE
Washoe Valley 1	Sat	14-Sep
Washoe Valley 2	Tues	17-Sep
Washoe Valley 3	Wed	25-Sep
Washoe Valley 4	Thurs	10-Oct
SW Reno 1	Wed	11-Sep
SW Reno 2	Sat	28-Sep
SW Reno 3	Thurs	3-Oct
SW Reno 4	Wed	16-Oct
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 1	Tues	17-Sep
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 2	Sat	19-Oct
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 3	Thurs	10-Oct
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 1	Thurs	19-Sep
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 2	Sat	5-Oct
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 3	Tues	8-Oct
Spanish Springs 1	Tues	24-Sep
Spanish Springs 2	Wed	2-Oct
Spanish Springs 3	Sat	12-Oct
North Valleys 1	Thurs	19-Sep
North Valleys 2	Wed	9-Oct
Golden/Sun Valley 1	Wed	11-Sep
Golden/Sun Valley 2	Thurs	17-Oct
Carson/Dayton 1	Thurs	12-Sep
Carson/Dayton 2	Wed	2-Oct
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 1	Thurs	26-Sep
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 2	Wed	23-Oct
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 1	Tues	24-Sep
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 2	Wed	16-Oct
Palomino Valley 1	Mon	23-Sep
Carson Valley 1	Fri	13-Sep
Carson Valley 2	Fri	4-Oct
Stagecoach/Silver Springs 1	Fri	20-Sep

FALL CLINIC PRICES	
Farm Call	21
Physical/Wellness Exam	20
West Nile - EWT	40
Rhino-Influenza	33
Strangles I.N.	35
Rabies	21
Deworm	17-24
Deworm (Foal/Mini)	14
Fecal Exam	23
Clean Sheath	440
Sedation - Starts At	45
Coggins	35
Health Certificate (First 2 Horses)	45
Health Certificate Additional Horse	15

Prices of dewormers vary depending on what deworming strategy your horse requires. A 10% discount will be applied to owners with 5 or more horses, and the farm call fee will be waived. Not applicable with any other discount.

**\*\*Manufacturer's Immunization Support Guarantee:** The vaccine company will pay for diagnostic & treatment costs up to \$5000 for your horse if he or she has been vaccinated by one of our doctors and becomes infected by West Nile, Influenza, Tetanus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and/or Western Equine Encephalitis within 1 year of vaccination. This guarantee excludes Strangles & Rhino virus. \*\*



**YOUR HORSE  
NEEDS A  
DENTAL EXAM  
EVERY YEAR!**

## Dentistry Pricing

We are offering our dentistry prices at \$170 plus sedatives. Sheath cleanings may be added for the discounted price of \$40.

**\$170.00**

We are continuing the Dental Health Maintenance Plan. Any horse that has dentistry performed annually will receive the discounted price of \$125 plus sedatives. This plan is ideal for horses that require more frequent dentistry.

**\$125.00**

To best service our clients, all of our doctors have received extensive training and continuing education opportunities in the field of equine dentistry.

### The discounted price includes:

-  Sedation Examination
-  Full Mouth Speculum Examination
-  Dental Equilibration (performed with hand & power tools)



**COMSTOCK EQUINE HOSPITAL**

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*Health*  
**CHRONICLE**

