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EQUINE HOSPITAL



6 Month Health Certificates Now Available!

We are now able to offer an Extended Equine Certificate of Veterinary Inspection (EECVI) that lasts 6 months to surrounding states including California, Washington and Idaho. Clients will need to set up their account on MyVetlink.com, and their horse is required to have a current negative Coggins test. With that current Coggins, your veterinarian can submit your EECVI to the state animal health official through Global Vet Link. Clients will be able to access their accounts to retrieve their permits at any time. Call our office for more information.



Health
CHRONICLE



What to Expect When Your Mare Is Expecting

Daniella N. Cucuzella DVM

Preparing for a foal can be an exciting and nerve wracking time for even the most experienced breeders. In the months leading up to foaling, there is plenty to do in preparation for your little bundle of joy. It is essential to keep your mare from becoming overweight prior to foaling to reduce the risk of dystocias or difficult births. Pre-foaling vaccinations 4-6 weeks prior to foaling help the mare to produce necessary antibodies in her colostrum for her foal. It is also important to make sure your mare is comfortable with haltering, tying, examination and palpation of her abdomen and udder and in case of emergency, loading into a trailer. Here are a few tips, tricks and facts to help you during this special time.

Preparing for the Big Day

Mares will often start to bag up (develop an udder) 30 days prior to foaling. Their teats will become more distended with milk in the last week. Milk calcium kits such as FoalWatch (www.foalwatch.com) can be used to help predict when a mare will foal based on the amount of calcium in her mammary secretions. In the last 24-48 hours, a waxy substance can appear on the ends of the teats which will indicate that parturition is near!

The Three Stages of Parturition

The first stage of parturition, or labor, is the longest stage and often subtle. During this stage the mare will often continue to

behave normally or may have signs that appear similar to a colic episode such as looking at the belly, stomping feet, swishing tail, or laying down more.

Stage two, or active labor, is the shortest stage of labor lasting around 30 minutes. The amniotic sac will appear first and should be a clearish white color. If you notice a bright "red bag" appearing, this is a medical emergency. Call your veterinarian immediately, then break the red bag open and try to get the foal's nose out as quickly as possible. In a normal delivery, the amniotic sac will appear and then the foal should present in the birth canal with its forefeet and nose extended. You will often see one forefoot extended out, then the nose and second foot coming along behind. The mare may get up and down multiple times and even roll to position the foal. If there isn't significant progress within 30 minutes after seeing the amniotic sac, contact your vet. Most mares are able to deliver a healthy foal without assistance. If there is any abnormal presentation of the foal or dystocia, call your vet immediately. It is recommended to get the mare in the trailer and to the clinic as fast as possible in order to save the mare and foal.

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Stage three involves passing the placenta and can take up to three hours. It is very important to never pull on the placenta or you may risk damaging the uterus or tearing the placenta. The placenta can be tied up with twine or weighted with a wet towel so the mare does not step on it after delivery. Once the mare passes the placenta, please keep it in a bag or bucket for further examination by your veterinarian at the post foaling exam. If the mare does not pass the placenta within three hours, it is considered to be a retained placenta. This is an emergency as the mare can get very ill and develop secondary complications.

It may also be good to have bute or banamine on hand prior to foaling for your mare. Your veterinarian can guide you on how much to give. This helps with post foaling pain and inflammation.

The 1-2-3 Rule

All owners should remember and follow the “1-2-3 Rule” closely. This mnemonic means the foal should stand within ONE hour of delivery, nurse within TWO hours, and the placenta should pass within THREE hours. If there are any delays, a call to your veterinarian is crucial, as this is a critical time for the mare and foal.

Mare, Foal and Placenta Check

If both mare and foal appear happy and healthy over the first few hours, schedule a post-foaling exam to be performed within 24 hours that includes a physical on mare and foal, blood work on the foal to check its IgG to ensure it consumed enough colostrum, and an inspection of the placenta. Your vet will also look for angular limb deformities, swollen joints, cleft palates and umbilical issues.

We hope everyone has a fun and successful 2020 foaling season, and we look forward to seeing all of the new foals this Spring!



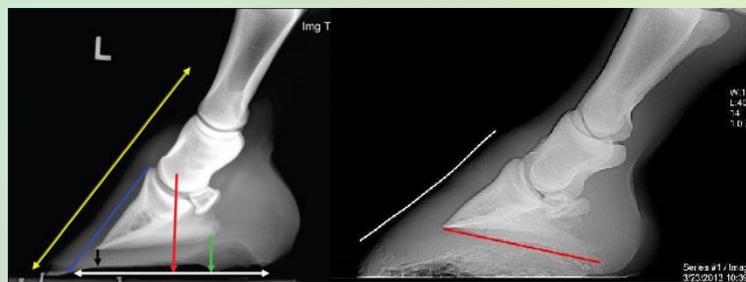
Negative Palmar Angle

Amanda H. Plunkett MS DVM

A common podiatry issue that horses face is what is known as a “negative palmar/plantar angle” (palmar is for front feet; plantar is for hind feet) also called a “negative PA” for short. The “PA” is simply defined as the angle that the bottom of the coffin bone makes with level ground. This is measured using radiographs. In the normal, sound horse with ideal hoof conformation, the PA will usually average +3 to +5 degrees.

What is a “negative PA” and what is the cause?

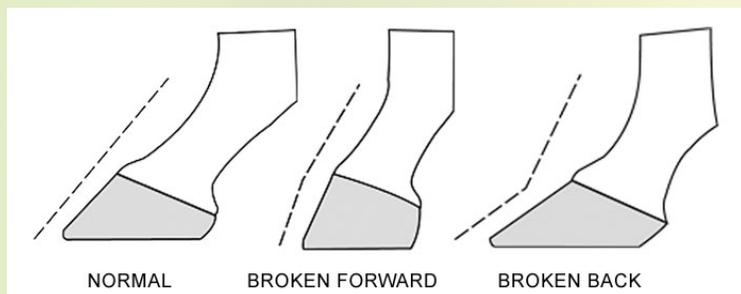
A negative PA is simply that – when the angle the bottom of the coffin bone makes with the ground is in the negative direction as seen in the radiograph. Increased palmar angles can be seen in laminitic horses with rotation of their coffin bone. While a negative PA can be caused by various issues, the primary causes are an overlong toe and an under-run heel.



Why is this a problem?

A negative PA can affect the horse in numerous ways. One of the more common and significant ways is a result of the increased stress and strain this change places on the deep digital flexor tendon that runs down the back-side of the limb all the way to the coffin bone within the hoof. A negative PA makes this flexor tendon more taut. Placing this extra ‘pull’ predisposes the horse to issues within the flexor tendon. The negative affects on the soft tissue structures of the limb can extend even higher in the limb

and can even affect the suspensory ligament and stifle function. Another commonly encountered secondary complication associated with a negative PA is what is referred to as a “broken back hoof-pastern-axis” (HPA). The HPA is formed by a line that is drawn through the middle of the long and short pastern bones that intersects the middle of the coffin bone. A normal HPA should be a straight line. A broken back HPA reduces the joint space at the front of the coffin joint and can predispose the horse to osteoarthritis or even fractures of the coffin bones.



How do I know if my horse has a negative PA?

The easiest way is through a consultation with your regular veterinarian. Your veterinarian will perform a musculoskeletal examination as well as obtain radiographic images of your horse’s hooves. These will assist the veterinarian in determining your horse’s PA, and if any other hoof abnormalities are present.

How do we fix the negative PA?

Correction of a negative PA is best achieved by working with your veterinarian and your farrier. The most common way that they will achieve this is through radiographic assessment, radiographic-assisted trimming, and corrective shoeing.

Developing an exceptional patient/client, farrier and veterinarian relationship can help you tackle the hard to manage hoof and help to detect problems such as negative PA early before they become a bigger problem. If you do not currently have a farrier that routinely sees your horse, our doctors and staff can happily help you find a farrier in your area and that fits you and your horse’s needs.

SPRING VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

| Area | Day | Date |
|-----------------------------|-------|----------|
| Washoe Valley 1 | Tues | 3 March |
| Washoe Valley 2 | Sat | 7 March |
| Washoe Valley 3 | Wed | 18 March |
| Washoe Valley 4 | Tues | 7 April |
| Washoe Valley 5 | Thurs | 9 April |
| Washoe Valley 6 | Sat | 11 April |
| SW Reno 1 | Wed | 4 March |
| SW Reno 2 | Sat | 14 March |
| SW Reno 3 | Thurs | 19 March |
| SW Reno 4 | Tues | 24 March |
| SW Reno 5 | Wed | 1 April |
| SW Reno 6 | Sat | 18 April |
| Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 1 | Thurs | 5 March |
| Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 2 | Wed | 11 March |
| Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 3 | Sat | 2-May |
| Lemmon/Antelope Valley 1 | Tues | 3 March |
| Lemmon/Antelope Valley 2 | Thurs | 19 March |
| Lemmon/Antelope Valley 3 | Wed | 25 March |
| Lemmon/Antelope Valley 4 | Sat | 21 March |
| Spanish Springs 1 | Thurs | 5 March |
| Spanish Springs 2 | Tues | 17 March |
| Spanish Springs 3 | Sat | 4 April |
| Spanish Springs 4 | Wed | 1 April |
| Spanish Springs 5 | Tues | 14 April |
| North Valleys 1 | Thurs | 12 March |
| North Valleys 2 | Tues | 24 March |
| Golden/Sun Valley 1 | Tues | 10 March |
| Golden/Sun Valley 2 | Wed | 25 March |
| Carson/Dayton 1 | Tues | 10 March |
| Carson/Dayton 2 | Thurs | 26 March |
| Carson/Dayton 3 | Thurs | 23 April |
| Toll Rd/VC Highlands 1 | Thurs | 12 March |
| Toll Rd/VC Highlands 2 | Tues | 21 April |
| West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 1 | Wed | 11 March |
| West Reno/Verdi-Mogul 2 | Thurs | 26 March |
| Palomino Valley 1 | Mon | 2 March |
| Palomino Valley 2 | Mon | 6 April |
| Carson Valley 1 | Mon | 9 March |
| Stagecoach/Silver Springs 1 | Fri | 20 March |

| Spring Clinic Prices | |
|-------------------------------------|-------|
| Farm Call | 21 |
| Physical/Wellness Exam | 22 |
| Vetera Gold (EWT, West Nile, F/R) | 78 |
| EWT WN Innovator | 40 |
| Flu/Rhino | 36 |
| Rabies | 23 |
| Deworm | 17-24 |
| Deworm (Foal/Mini) | 14 |
| Fecal Exam | 23 |
| Clean Sheath | 40 |
| 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 \$175 plus sedatives. Sheath cleanings may be added for the discounted price of \$40.

\$175.00

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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