

COMSTOCK EQUINE HOSPITAL

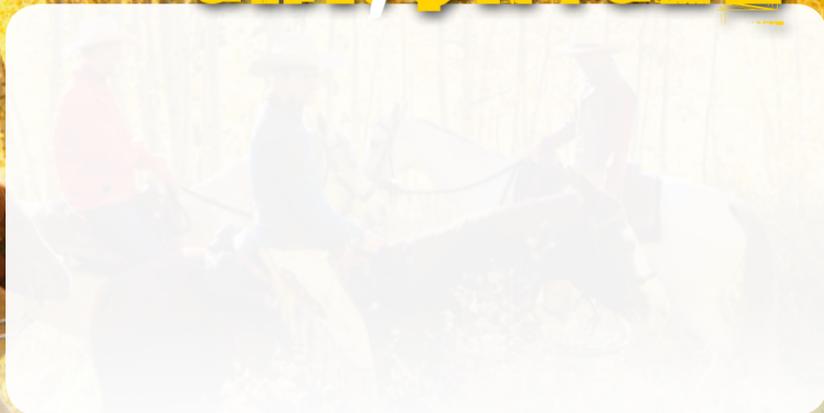
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Health CHRONICLE



Way to Go!



Magnificent Mikey!

by Marianne Merriam
Last September, my 12 year old thoroughbred gelding Mikey was diagnosed with Wobbler's Disease, a potentially fatal condition. He had a fractured 6th cervical vertebrae with a bone chip. On the neurological scale of 1-5 (5 displaying the most severe symptoms), Mikey was a 3 on the hind limbs and a 2 on the front limbs. We were expected to have to put him down but decided to give him a chance to get better – and that he did! Ten months later, the fracture is healing, he is able to support the weight of a rider, and he's being ridden in the arena! My trainer Rebekka Rhodes is helping him re-learn balance. She has been riding him once a week and has walked, trotted and cantered him. Soon we will take him out on easy trails to see how he does. With his progress, I fully believe he will be a productive, useful horse again. His body score has never been better, and he has regained muscle and balance. Isn't that magnificent? 🐾

The Winning Combination

Trainers Flint Lee and Matt Hoekenga of Lee Stock Horses in Fallon had the winning combination at the Eureka County Fair in August. Flint Lee earned 2nd place in the Two Rein Class and won money in the team roping on Genuine Rednic(Nic) owned by John & Sandy Friberg. Bea Venible also rode Nic and won the women's team branding with teammates Katy Dennis, Tammy Lee and Olie Fowler. Tammy Lee (Flint's mother) won the Non Pro Ranch Cutting and Non Pro Snaffle/Hackamore Class and tied for high point Non Pro Cowhorse on Sheza Shiny Chex. Flint won the Open Hackamore on Very Handy Remedy owned by Flint Lee and Sandy Friberg, the Open Snaffle on Smart Chic owned by The Sliding Sister Ranch, and placed 2nd in the Open Bridle and 1st in the Open Ranch Cutting on Freckles Little Pepto owned by Dean & Sharon Rhodes. Kenny Lee (Flint's father) placed 5th in the Non Pro Snaffle. Matt Hoekenga placed 1st in the Open Two Rein Class on IX Smart Starlite owned by Liz Younger. Jake Logan won 1st place in the Open Bridle Class on Como Trigger Chex. Sandy Friberg won the Non Pro Bridle on Codys Sierra Gypsy. Way to go guys! 🐾

Valerie Williams and her endurance horses, Ebony and Reema, have overcome great obstacles this year. After sustaining multiple lacerations to her limbs this spring, Ebony is back and ready to compete in an XP Ride (a 50 mile endurance ride) at the north rim of the Grand Canyon this fall. She did well in the Nevada Derby, several NEDA rides, and the Eastern High Sierra limited distance ride in Bridgeport, California. Reema sustained an injury to her left carpus this summer but is fully healed and ready to return to endurance riding. She has been competing in multiple limited distance rides to get back into shape. Valerie is thankful her mares are back in action and is excited about the upcoming endurance season. 🐾

Health CHRONICLE

AUTUMN 2012

Comstock EQUINE HOSPITAL



Wednesday Night Round Tables

Join us for an informal discussion on current topics in equine veterinary medicine. We will meet one Wednesday each month at CEH. A light dinner and beverages will be served.

Dentistry: *DO look a gift horse in the mouth!*

Wednesday September 19th 6:00 pm (RSVP by Monday September 17th)

Join Dr. Lau for an in depth guide to equine dental anatomy, common dental issues, and equine dental procedures.



Metabolic Diseases:

Do these saddlebags make my butt look big?

Wednesday October 17th 6:00 pm (RSVP by Monday October 15th)

Join Dr. Price and become your own expert as we delve into common equine endocrine disorders, their often ugly aftermath, and the latest and greatest on what we can do about it.

Lameness: *To Block or Not to Block?*

Wednesday November 14th 6:00 pm (RSVP by Monday November 12th)

Join Dr. Myers for a guide to the basic lameness examination and an overview of regional limb anesthesia ("nerve blocks").



Comstock Equine First Aid Kits For Sale \$45

Due to popular demand, we have put together a first aid kit that can be purchased at our office. These kits would be perfect for the barn, horse trailer, or while out camping. They may be ordered by phone or email, and they can be picked up at the office or brought to your appointment.

- Basic Temperature/Pulse/Respiration (TPR)
- Weight Tape
- 4x4 Gauze Squares
- Exam Gloves
- Tongue Depressors
- Cotton Swabs
- Telfa Sterile Non-adherent Pad
- Conform Gauze
- Elastikon Tape
- White Tape
- Cotton Combine (Standing Wrap)
- Brown Gauze
- Vetrap
- Thermometer
- Betadine Solution
- Saline Solution
- Triple Antibiotic Ointment
- 60cc Oral Dose Syringe (irrigate wound, administer oral water/electrolytes)

Welcome Dr. Schoenhals

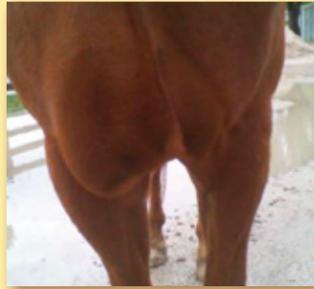
We would like to introduce our 2012-2013 equine medicine and surgery intern, Dr. Kate Schoenhals. Dr. Schoenhals is a native of Salt Lake City, Utah. She received her Bachelor of Science from the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas. Dr. Schoenhals graduated with her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Oregon State University in 2012. Her professional interests include internal medicine, reproduction, and neonatology. Her hobbies include tap dancing, soccer, hiking with her dogs Jelly and Dulce. Welcome Dr. Schoenhals! 🐾

Pigeon Fever

Kate E. Schoenhals DVM

Pigeon Fever is an infectious bacterial disease caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* which results in abscess formation in horses. These abscesses can form externally under the skin and musculature or less commonly internally within organs such as the lungs, liver, spleen or kidneys. These large abscesses most commonly form in the pectoral region with the swelling resembling a pigeon's breast thus giving this disease its name. Abscesses can also form on the ventrum (belly), sheath and udder. Horses with Pigeon Fever may also

show signs of systemic illness such as inappetence, depression, fever and lameness depending on the location of the abscess. Most clinically affected horses are detected in late summer or fall when high environmental temperatures and drought conditions are present.



Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis exists in the environment in the soil. Horses are infected when the bacteria penetrates open wounds or via bites from flies carrying the pathogenic organism. Pigeon Fever can be diagnosed by culture of fluid from abscesses. Ultrasound may be necessary to locate abscesses deep within the muscles. Serologic blood tests can also be performed to aid in the detection of internal infections.

Pigeon fever can self-limiting in most mild cases. It may take as one to four weeks for abscesses to mature, erupt and heal. Often these abscesses do not erupt on their own and require lancing to allow drainage. The use of antibiotic therapy in mild cases is controversial as antibiotics have the potential to prevent abscess maturation and may prolong the course of disease. Cases that fail to resolve, those with internal abscessation, or those that develop secondary complications (i.e. ulcerative lymphangitis or cellulitis) require more aggressive treatment, often necessitating hospitalization and intensive antibiotic therapy.

Currently there is no equine vaccination for Pigeon Fever. Practicing good sanitation and fly control are the best ways to reduce the risk of disease. This should include use of fly repellents, proper disposal of manure, and proper wound cleaning and protection. Products like Swat Wound Ointment are excellent options to apply around wounds and on the ventrum where flies like to bite. Infected horses should be kept away from other horses in an area that can be easily disinfected as the pus from the abscesses is loaded with the bacteria that can survive and persist in soil. If you have any questions regarding Pigeon Fever, please call your veterinarian.



Common Equine Emergencies: Situations Requiring Urgent Veterinary Attention

Sadie B. Myers DVM

Colic

Colic or abdominal pain is an emergency and is best treated sooner than later. Subtle or early signs of colic include lying down, separation from the herd, not finishing feed, flared nostrils, lethargy or poor performance. More serious signs of colic in horses include looking at the abdomen, rolling, pawing, repeatedly lying down, stretching, muscle tremors, and abnormal sweating.

Lacerations

Small, superficial lacerations can often be managed at home under the guidance of a veterinarian. Any laceration, puncture, or abrasion near a joint, tendon sheath, hoof or eye should be examined by a veterinarian immediately. In the event of a deep laceration or situation with significant blood loss, pressure should be applied directly over the wound with a clean towel or gauze bandage while waiting for a veterinarian to arrive.

Acute Lameness

Acute lameness can be associated with puncture wounds, fractures, laminitis, abscesses, and many other causes. Immobilize your horse and keep calm.

Puncture Wounds/Foreign Body in Foot

If your horse suffers a traumatic puncture wound to the foot or lower leg, please keep your horse calm, still, and quiet. While scary, it is best to leave the foreign body in place until radiographs or ultrasound can be performed to assess which structures may be compromised.

Eye Trauma

Any trauma or abnormality around or involving the eye is considered an emergency. Please do not administer any medications in the eye until speaking with a veterinarian.

Choke (Obstruction of the Esophagus)

Choke is absolutely an emergency and typically requires sedation, passage of a nasogastric tube, and lavage to dislodge the food bolus. It is most commonly due to dry feeds, such as beet pulp and pelleted feeds, rapid feed intake, or poor dentition. Rarely endoscopy, hospitalization, fluid therapy, and antibiotics are necessary for resolution.

ADR ("Ain't Doing Right")

If your horse is off feed, showing signs of fever, or is lethargic, please call your veterinarian to discuss. This may be caused by many factors including but not limited to bacterial or viral infection, dehydration, or colic.

Allergic Reactions and Hives

Horses that develop swelling or hives on the face, neck, or body are suffering from an allergic reaction. This can be caused by new feed or bedding, environmental allergens (plants, insect bites), or a general hypersensitivity of the immune system. If the face or neck is involved, if your horse is having difficulty breathing, or if your horse shows ANY of these symptoms, call our office immediately.

AUTUMN VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

Area:	Day:	Date
Washoe Valley	Thurs	13-Sep
Washoe Valley	Sat	22-Sep
Washoe Valley	Tues	25-Sep
Washoe Valley	Wed	3-Oct
Washoe Valley	Thurs	11-Oct
Washoe Valley	Sat	10-Nov
SW Reno	Tues	11-Sep
SW Reno	Thurs	20-Sep
SW Reno	Sat	29-Sep
SW Reno	Wed	3-Oct
SW Reno	Wed	10-Oct
SW Reno	Sat	17-Nov
Mt Rose/Steamboat	Wed	12-Sep
Mt Rose/Steamboat	Tues	18-Sep
Mt Rose/Steamboat	Wed	26-Sep
Mt Rose/Steamboat	Tues	9-Oct
Lemmon Valley	Tues	18-Sep
Lemmon Valley	Thurs	27-Sep
Lemmon Valley	Tues	9-Oct
Lemmon Valley	Sat	27-Oct
Spanish Springs	Wed	12-Sep
Spanish Springs	Tues	25-Sep
Spanish Springs	Sat	13-Oct
North Valleys	Thurs	13-Sep
North Valleys	Thurs	4-Oct
North Valleys	Wed	10-Oct
Golden/Sun Valley	Tues	11-Sep
Golden/Sun Valley	Thurs	11-Oct
Carson/Dayton	Wed	19-Sep
Carson/Dayton	Thurs	4-Oct
Toll Rd/VC Highlands	Wed	19-Sep
Toll Rd/VC Highlands	Tues	2-Oct
West Reno/Verdi	Thurs	20-Sep
West Reno/Verdi	Tues	2-Oct
Palomino Valley	Mon	1-Oct
Gardnerville	Sat	15-Sep
Gardnerville	Mon	17-Sep
Gardnerville	Fri	12-Oct
Minden/Johnson Ln	Sat	15-Sep
Minden/Johnson Ln	Fri	5-Oct
Minden/Johnson Ln	Mon	15-Oct
Jacks Valley/Genoa/Foothills	Wed	26-Sep
Jacks Valley/Genoa/Foothills	Mon	22-Oct
Silver Springs/Stagecoach	Mon	8-Oct
Silver Springs/Stagecoach	Fri	2-Nov

PRICE LIST	
Farm Call	15
Physical/Wellness Exam	10*
Rhino-Influenza	29
West Nile + EWT	39
Strangles I.N.	32
West Nile Innovator	32
Rabies	21
Deworm (Adult)	17-22
Deworm (Foil/Mini)	14
Fecal Exam	17.5
Clean Sheath	45
Sedation- Starts At	45
Coggins	28
Health Certificate	37
Additional on H.C.	12

*Note our new exam prices!

A 5% discount will be applied to owners with 5 or more horses.
 Pfizer Immunization Support Guarantee: Pfizer Animal Health will pay for diagnostic and treatment costs up to \$5000.00 for your horse if it 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 one year of vaccination. This guarantee excludes Strangles and Rhino virus.



\$150.00

Fall Dentistry Special!!!

All dental procedures during the fall clinics will be performed for the discounted price of **\$150 (a \$50 savings)**. Dentistry performed both at the clinic and on 5 or more horses in the field will still receive the additional 10% dentistry discount. Sheath cleanings may be added to your examination for the discounted price of \$20 (a \$20 savings). 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
-  Full Mouth Speculum Examination
-  Dental Equilibration (performed with hand floats and power float equipment)