Client Education Seminars

Colic 101
Wednesday March 28th 6:00pm
Location to be determined.
Join us for an in depth discussion on all things colic. We will cover anatomy, common causes of colic, prevention, and treatment. Special guest lecturer Paul Richied of Richied & Associates will discuss equine insurance and help you understand equine policies. Please RSVP by Monday March 26th.

Spring Open House: Horse Health 101
Sponsored by Purina Feed
Saturday May 19th 10:00am
Comstock Equine Hospital
Join us for informative lectures, hands-on labs, a practice tour, and a delicious barbecue lunch. Purina Feed will host a nutrition lecture to help you develop the best feeding program for your horse. Other topics will include skin and allergies, parasite control, and what to do in an emergency. Please RSVP by Wednesday May 16th.

A Big Thank You!
As many of you know, our facility escaped danger during the Washoe Fire last month. Words cannot express how thankful we are to Gerhardt Berry Construction and Peavine Construction for their generous donation of their time and water trucks. We are also thankful to Big Air Riding Academy for transporting our in hospital patients to a safe location and Claudia and Jeff Watkins for jumping on the front lines with our staff to help protect our building and neighborhood. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Our Doctors Never Stop Learning
Dr. Coli attended Wild West Veterinary Conference in Reno, NV.
Dr. Damonte attended the Lake Tahoe Equine Conference in South Lake Tahoe, CA.
Dr. Miller attended American College of Veterinary Surgeons in Chicago, IL, AAEP National Competition in San Antonio, TX, and Lake Tahoe Equine Conference in South Lake Tahoe, CA.
Dr. Lau attended the AAEP Focus on Dentistry in Albuquerque, NM.
Dr. Myers attended the AAEP National Convention in San Antonio, TX.
Dr. Price attended Wild West Veterinary Conference in Reno, NV.

Photo Contest Winners
1st Place: Colt by Yankee Slider
2nd Place: Funny Faces
3rd Place: Kindra Cannon and “Gerry”

Honorable Mentions: Texting and Riding - Jamie Campbell, Dinner at Sunset - Jann Hehn, Tee Jay and His Shadow - Katrina Boydon, Dudley the Water Baby - Deb Connel
Choosing the Right Therapy for Your Lame Horse: What you need to know first!
Shane M. Miller DVM Dipl. ACVS

What you need to know first!

All horses should receive the core vaccines - West Nile, Tetanus, Sleeping Beauty (Eastern and Western Equine Encephalitis), and Rabies. Vaccines should be given in the spring before insects emerge. Boosters are needed three weeks later if these are the horse's first set of vaccinations. Repeated vaccinations in the fall may be required if the insect level remains high. If a horse sustains a laceration and it heals longer than six months since vaccination, a Tetanus booster may be required. Horses should be vaccinated at six months of age and booster'd in three weeks. While Rabies is not a huge threat in our area, it is untreatable, fatal and easily transmitted to humans. Rabies is recommended on a yearly basis especially for those with increased exposure to wildlife or those traveling to Rabies “hot spots” to optimize your herd’s health care.

Rabies is the only vaccine for which there is a guarantee. Pfizer guarantees a 100% return on investment if the horse receives the booster. A field guarantee is provided as well. This coverage is within one year of vaccination. This guarantee excludes Strangles and Rhino virus.

**Pfizer Immunization Support Guarantee:** Pfizer Animal Health will pay for diagnostic services and treatment of any disease that is contracted as long as the disease is treatable, with no limit to the number of patients being treated. No second opinion is required.

**All pet patients will be covered at 50%**. All pet patients will be covered at 50%.

**No diagnostic support guarantee applies to non-pet owners.**

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Choosing the Right Therapy for Your Lame Horse: What you need to know first!

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N o matter the discipline, we ask a lot of our equine companions and athletes. There is a myriad of conditions causing lameness and resulting in prolonged rest periods or missed competitions. Whether it is confirmation abnormalities, conformational conditions, or the normal stresses and strains sustained by the feet and limbs, injuries can occur. We are in the “new age” of regenerative medicine therapies to treat these injuries. While there have been many advancements, there are still basic things that need to be evaluated and established before we can start to open up the toolbox with therapeutics.

This new era of repairing performance-induced injuries can mean reaching deeper into our pockets. However, the most critical goal to establish is “Are we treating the primary problem?” Veterinarians often find it easier for clients to pay for treatment than to pay for more diagnostics. Some of the most diagnostic available are digital radiography, nuclear scintigraphy, MRI can cost a pretty penny, but often times these tools are needed to establish that correct diagnosis. It doesn’t make any sense to throw a lot of money into treatment if we don’t know exactly what we are treating.

Arriving at a correct diagnosis takes skill, experience, and time.

Diagnosing subtle lameness can be an art form molded from years of experience. A thorough lameness exam includes an exam on hard and soft surfaces, flexion tests, and hoof balance exam. Sometimes an exam under saddle is required if the lameness is only evident while being ridden. The next step involves blocking the limbs or joint to help localize the area of concern. Once the area has been identified the diagnostic modality of choice is performed. This is dependent on the type of tissue injured. Joint or bone injuries are diagnosed with radiographs. Soft tissues (tendons or ligaments) injuries are diagnosed with ultrasound. If the injury is located within the hoof capsule and the radiographs do not show any abnormality or if there is a concern of bone AND soft tissue damage, an MRI may be indicated. If the area of concern is higher on the body, deep to soft tissue, in the axial skeleton (spine and pelvis) or a physiological problem, nuclear scintigraphy (bone scan) would be the diagnostic of choice. Joint inflammation is also a common source of lameness. When a bone or arthritic condition is causing the inflammation, arthroscopy may be indicated to diagnose and resolve the problem. Often a combination of all these modalities may be required. It is only after the proper diagnosis is established that the correct therapy can and should be recommended. This simple yet complex step is often overshadowed by the glow of new diagnostics.

With regenerative therapies such as stem cells and platelet rich plasma (PRP) in our treatment arsenal, injuries heal better, faster, and with less likelihood of recurrence. Synovitis or inflammation of the joint can be managed by proper vaccine handling, performing physical examinations prior to vaccinating, choosing only the necessary vaccines, and scheduling their administration. Place Animal Health offers the Immunization Support Guarantee in which $500 will be given towards diagnosis and treatment of any injury if 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.

Contact your veterinarian to form your vaccination strategy.