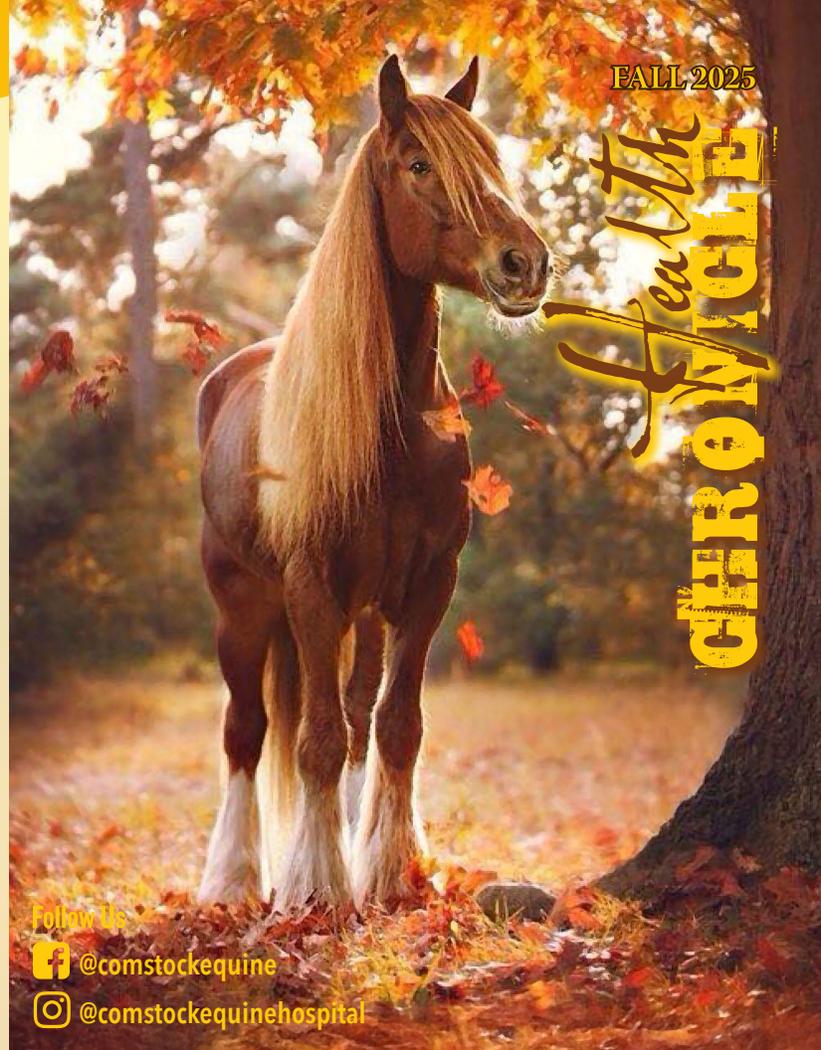


# Comstock

EQUINE HOSPITAL

FALL 2025

Feeling the CHRONICLES



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## Welcome Dr. Bridget Ratliff!

We are so excited to welcome our new surgeon **Dr. Bridget Ratliff**. Dr. Ratliff is a native of Rickmansworth, England. She earned her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Nottingham. Dr. Ratliff completed an equine medicine and surgery internship at Rood & Riddle in Wellington, Florida and a large animal surgery internship at the University of Florida. Dr. Ratliff completed her equine surgery residency at University of California Davis. Her professional interests include care of the equine athlete, lameness, surgery, and everything in between. In her free time, Dr. Ratliff enjoys hiking, skiing, triathlons, CrossFit, and spending as much time outdoors with her Black Florida mixed breed dog named Molly. We can't wait for you to meet Dr. Ratliff, and we are so excited to have her join our team!



## Welcome Dr. Erica Barrett and Dr. Anna Deryck!

**Dr. Barrett** grew up in Reno and is returning here from the Twin Cities. She graduated with a Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. Her professional interests include podiatry, lameness, nutrition, and integrative therapies including chiropractic and acupuncture. In her free time, Dr. Barrett enjoys cooking, reading, trail riding, and spending time with her horses Durango and Moonshine, hiking, skiing, and maintaining her fish tanks. She has a menagerie of animals including two dogs Fizzgig and Bjorn, two parrots Kiwi and Sora, axolotls and many fish.



**Dr. Deryck** was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii. She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Her professional interests include general practice, internal medicine, ophthalmology, and theriogenology. In her free time, Dr. Deryck enjoys biking, diving, stand up comedy, crochet, rockhounding, and tending to her extensive plant collection.

## Corneal Ulcers: The Basics

*Anna C. Deryck DVM*

**Corneal ulcers are abrasions on the surface of the eye. They are a common problem in horses.**

Thankfully, they are treatable and usually resolve quickly when addressed promptly. Here you will find a brief overview of the common causes, diagnosis, and treatment of corneal ulcers in horses.

The cornea is the clear, dome-shaped tissue that makes up the surface of the front of the eye, covering the iris and pupil. It is very sensitive, and injury to this tissue can be quite painful. The cornea has a great ability to heal, and if there are no complicating factors such as infection, these abrasions can heal in a matter of days.

Corneal ulcers usually occur as the result of trauma to the eye. Often a piece of hay or long grass scratches the eye and causes an ulcer. Anything causing irritation around the eye, such as flies or allergies, can cause the horse to rub its face and inadvertently scratch the eye. In foals, congenital defects of the eyelid called entropion can be a cause of corneal ulcers. Less commonly, corneal ulcers in horses can be caused by herpesvirus, inadequate or low-quality tear film, or nerve damage causing an inability to blink.

If your horse has a corneal ulcer, you may notice squinting, tearing, swelling, and/or redness around the eye. You may be able to see the ulcer, which can appear as a grey, often circular defect in the cornea. In some cases, the cornea surrounding the ulcer may appear hazy from corneal edema, or swelling. If you notice any of these signs, contact a veterinarian as soon as possible.

To diagnose a corneal ulcer, the veterinarian will use fluorescein stain. The stain does not stick to healthy intact cornea, but it will adhere to an ulcer, turning it bright green and making it easier to see. Sedation, topical anesthesia, and a local block may be required to comfortably and thoroughly perform an ophthalmic exam. Your veterinarian will prescribe a topical antibiotic ointment to be put in the eye several times a day. This does not mean the ulcer is infected; it is a preventative measure to protect the susceptible eye from infection while the ulcer heals. Your horse will also be given pain medication - often oral Banamine. In cases involving corneal edema, hypertonic saline eye drops may be



prescribed to draw out the edema. Because horses with corneal ulcers are sensitive to light and wind, a fly mask or eye saver mask are also recommended.

After diagnosis, your veterinarian will schedule a recheck appointment in 5-7 days, at which point the cornea is usually healed with no stain uptake, and medications can be discontinued.

By definition, a “simple” corneal ulcer is one that is superficial, not infected, and heals quickly, usually in 5-7 days. These are the most common type of corneal ulcer, but there are other types that are treated differently. Infected ulcers require aggressive treatment which may need hospitalization. Corneal ulcers that are not infected but do not heal within the expected time frame are called indolent or non-healing ulcers. These ulcers require a minor procedure to aid healing: after numbing eye drops, the abnormal corneal cells surrounding the defect are removed, often with a cotton-tip applicator or a diamond burr. The ulcer is then treated like a simple ulcer with topical antibiotic ointment and given another chance to heal.

There is no way to completely avoid corneal ulcers. It has been suggested anecdotally that some methods of feeding hay (particularly round bales) may be more likely to result in corneal injury, however this has yet to be confirmed in a study. If tolerated, fly masks can be a great way to protect your horse’s eyes from fly irritation and foreign body injury. However, it is important to remove the mask every day so that any potential issues do not go unnoticed. The most important thing is to be attentive and respond promptly to any signs of eye injury, including a corneal ulcer, by contacting your veterinarian. And please, do NOT put anything in your horse’s eye unless instructed by a veterinarian to do so.

## FALL VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

Area	Day	Date
Washoe Valley 1	Mon	8-Sep
Washoe Valley 2	Tues	30-Sep
Washoe Valley 3	Wed	15-Oct
SW Reno 1	Tues	9-Sep
SW Reno 2	Wed	1-Oct
SW Reno 3	Thurs	16-Oct
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 1	Mon	22-Sep
Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley 2	Fri	10-Oct
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 1	Thurs	11-Sep
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 2	Fri	3-Oct
Lemmon/Antelope Valley 3	Mon	27-Oct
Spanish Springs 1	Tues	16-Sep
Spanish Springs 2	Wed	8-Oct
Spanish Springs 3	Tues	4-Nov
North Valleys 1	Thurs	25-Sep
North Valleys 2	Mon	3-Nov
Golden/Sun Valley 1	Tues	23-Sep
Golden/Sun Valley 2	Wed	5-Nov
Carson/Dayton 1	Wed	10-Sep
Carson/Dayton 2	Tues	30-Sep
Carson Dayton 3	Thurs	6-Nov
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 1	Tues	23-Sep
Toll Rd/VC Highlands 2	Wed	29-Oct
West Reno/Verdi-Mogul	Fri	19-Sep
Palomino Valley 1	Fri	12-Sep
Palomino Valley 2	Mon	27-Oct
Palomino Valley 3	Tues	11-Nov
Stagecoach/Silver Springs 1	Fri	26-Sep
Stagecoach/Silver Springs 2	Mon	10-Nov

## FALL CLINIC PRICING

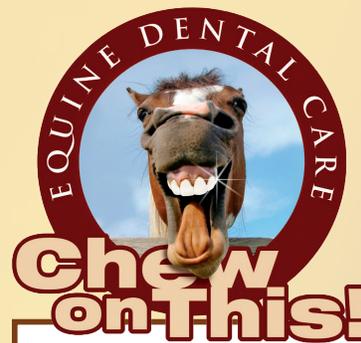
Farm Call	40
Physical/Wellness Exam	40
Flu/Rhino	48
Rabies	30
Strangles Intranasal	54
Deworm	33
Deworm (Foal/Mini)	23
Fecal Exam	28
Clean Sheath	62
Sedation - Starts At	55
Coggins	52
Health Certificate	45
Health Certificate Additional Horse	30
EECVI (6 Month Health Certificate)	110

*Clinic Price List with the text below:*

*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 \$235 plus sedatives. Sheath cleanings may be added for the discounted price of \$62.

We are continuing the Dental Health Maintenance Plan. Any horse that has dentistry performed annually will receive the discounted price of \$185 plus sedatives. This plan is ideal for horses that require more frequent dentistry.

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)

**\$235**

**\$185**

**COMSTOCK EQUINE HOSPITAL**

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*Health*  
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