

HAYES EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

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April 2017 Newsletter

The Sun, The Sand, The Drink In Hand!

While all of you Texans were suffering in the cold, dank Texas winter, Dr. Meghan headed south at the beginning of February for a conference in The Cayman Islands. The American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) hosted their 19th annual resort symposium at the Westin Grand Caymans. While not sitting on the beach or swimming with the stingrays, Dr. Meghan was sitting in on lectures pertaining to sport horse medicine.

The first day of the conference concentrated on determining whether lameness is due to pain or to neurologic issues, especially when there is subtle spinal cord disease. EPM was a major topic of discussion, which was especially helpful with the amount of EPM that Hayes Equine sees. The biggest takeaway from the EPM talks is that running a blood test for EPM does not always prove infection, especially here in Texas where exposure rates are high. Other topics discussed on the first day were Lyme Disease and "Head Shakers." The most interesting portion being the treatment for head shakers, which can include a combination of drugs and electrical stimulation.

Day two of the conference pertained to imaging of the equine athlete, specifically x-rays and MRI. There were many case studies looking at specific injuries to sport horses.

The third day consisted of discussions on specific sport horse lamenesses, and how to diagnose them. Dr. Tracy Turner from Minnesota delved deeply into imaging muscle injuries with digital thermography. While Hayes Equine is unable to provide this service at this time, it was interesting to see how much muscle injury we DON'T see on our typical lameness exam. And you definitely don't want to rule out dental (e.g. head bob) and saddle fit issues as the cause of your lameness! There were also some interesting discussions on some of the new tools that are available for rehabilitation, including lasers, heat, ultrasound, light, and compression therapy.

When dealing with lameness, one of the best people to call is your veterinarian. While they may not be able to cure everything, they can at least give you an idea on where to start. As always, call if you have any questions about your horse's soundness.

Castration Signs: April 17th thru April 21st GET THEM BOYS DONE BEFORE THE HEAT!!!

Make sure to get pregnant mares pre-foal vaccines done. Check for current coggins before trail riding weather. Remember if you cross a state line you are required to have Coggins and Health papers.