

HAYES EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

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January 2018 Newsletter

HAPPY NEW YEAR! May the Horse be with you
New Year's Resolution- Make time to ride. Take time for yourself and your horse. Set aside 2 hours on Sunday afternoons to ride. Let the laundry, house cleaning, grocery shopping go for 2 hours & ride ☺

TIME TO WORM FOR BOTS

All horses of all ages need to be wormed for bots in January including those horses on the strategic worming program (Jan, April 15, and Oct 15). Use a wormer with Ivermectin (Zimecterin, Zimecterin Gold, Equimax, Ivercare etc.) The ivermectin kills the bots in the stomach and with the combo wormers the praziquantel kills the tapeworms.

EYE PROBLEMS- FUNGAL CORNEAL ULCERS

Because of the drought, dry conditions and the wind we are seeing 1-2 eye problems a week. Most of these are fungal from a piece of hay blown by the wind from a round bale or a piece of weed that is eye level in the unmowed pasture where the horse is grazing. We consider any eye problem to be an emergency which needs attention and fungal eye medicine started right away because they go bad quickly as the fungus eats through the cornea causing rupture of the eye.

AAEP American Association of Equine Practitioners

Dr Hayes went to the AAEP symposium in San Antonio. Here is some take home info from the lectures.
Laminitis (founder)

In the fall when the temperature is 65 with long sunny days, the sugar content in the grass increases 3 xs. This is the cause of the fall founders that we see after a fall rain making the grass grow and then the increased photosynthesis of sugar in the grass plant with cooler, sunny weather conditions. For horses susceptible to founder such as easy keepers, the fat cresty neck horses with equine metabolic syndrome or insulin resistance or older Cushings horses with long hair, early morning grazing (6am-10am) is recommended or a grazing muzzle.

Cooling the feet with ice water helped decrease the laminitis damage especially when started in the first 12 hours of clinical signs of founder. Keep the horse in ice water bags or boots for at least 48 hours. The ice water also prevented laminitis in very sick septic horses in the hospital. They recommended confinement of the horse 1 week for every day of laminitis

For those EMS easy keeper horses to keep the weight off in the spring and summer;

1. Decrease the grazing time to 4 hours early morning,
2. Feed 1-2 % of body weight in hay 1% will lose weight which is 10 lbs. /day or 1 flake am & pm
3. Soaking hay 30 minutes reduces the sugar content by 27%
4. Do not feed oats or sweet feed; feed on low starch feeds Safe Choice or Purina L/S

Squamous cell skin cancer

Those horses with pink skin around their eyelids or pink muzzles (Paints, Apps, and Cremellos) are prone to skin cancer in those areas. Usually we use topical 5 fluoro cream, freezing, cisplatin beads or injection with success if treated early. For those squamous cell skin cancers that do not respond there is a new treatment at Texas A&M where the cancer is removed and then a dye is injected in the lesion followed by a red laser light on the area to activate the dye. The cancer usually heals in 3 months.