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June 2018 Newsletter

School's Out For Summer!

As we approach the summer riding season, it's a good idea to make sure you, your horse, and your vehicles are ready to take those weekend long trips.

Check your trailers long before you go! Pull up the mats and inspect the floor boards to make sure there are no rotten boards or loose nails. Check the tops of your trailer (especially the short ones) for sharp edges that a horse could cut their head on. Make sure all your lights are working and that your trailer brakes will stop your rig. Nothing is worse than having to stop and you are only relying on your truck brakes! Make sure your tires don't have any dry rot or bubbles that might indicate an imminent blowout.

Along with checking your trailer, make sure you know when it's safe to travel. As we get into these hotter months, avoid travelling during the hot part of the day. If you must travel during the day, make sure your trailer is well ventilated. One way to cool down a trailer on a hot day is to toss a bag of ice on the floor every time you stop. However, there MUST be shavings on the floor to avoid slipping. Be sure if you are travelling long distances to stop every 4 hours to offer your horse water and let them take a little walk.

Bringing a first aid kit for you and your horse is not a bad idea. Good things to keep in your equine first aid kit are: a dose of banamine and/or bute for colic or sudden lameness, betadine solution to clean wounds, maxi pads for any wounds that bleed heavily, bandage material (roll cotton and vetrap are the big ones). A human first aid kit can be found at the dollar store but be sure to include some bottled water and sunscreen!

One thing that a lot of people forget is that on these hot days, it's important to stop for water during a ride. If you're thirsty, your horse is thirstier. Horses on a ride can go about an hour before needing water, especially horses that are only ridden for an hour or so at home. If you go on a two-hour trail ride, you need to make sure you stop during the ride for a drink of water. We get a lot of calls about a colicky horse that was ridden for a couple of hours and got too dehydrated. A lot of times this takes a fair bit of money to fix because they may need fluids to get them over it. Prevention is your best bet, so be sure to stop for water breaks!

Hopefully you all have exciting summers planned with lots of fun activities for both you and your horse! As always, if you have any questions, feel free to contact your veterinarian.

Reminder: Founder season is upon us. Keep those at-risk horses up during the day and the chunky monkeys need to have grazing muzzles on.

Castration Signs : June 1st thru 6th and June 25th thru 30th (If not too Hot!!!)