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November 2018 Newsletter

New York, New York!

Last month, Dr. Meghan had the pleasure of attending a conference put on by the Northeast Association of Equine Practitioners in Saratoga, New York. Featured at this conference were a few of the equine lameness and podiatry gurus, Dr. Rick Redden, Dr. Sue Dyson, and Dr. Raul Bras. Also speaking were several very prominent farriers in the industry including Joao Neto and Stefan Wehrli.

Dr. Meghan spent the majority of the conference attending seminars dealing with problems associated with the feet, how to find them, and how to deal with them. The most common subjects discussed were laminitis, club feet, and negative palmar angles. What she found most interesting to learn was how to trim and shoe horses that are lame due to their hoof angles. Many of the therapeutic ideas behind shoeing these horses has to do with blood supply to certain parts of the hoof being compromised. Shoeing these horses deals with opening up the vascular channels that run under the coffin bone to allow for more sole growth.

Dr. Meghan also attended some talks dealing with severely laminitic horses, and using venograms to give us an idea of how well a laminitic horse is going to do. Looking at the blood vessels in the foot of a laminitic horse can tell veterinarians how well the horse will bounce back after a severely laminitic episode. Horses that have completely lost the blood supply to the foot tend to do really poorly. Horses that are able to get some blood supply may benefit from changes in their treatment that allows for the blood supply being opened up through shoeing. Horses that are able to keep blood flowing through their feet throughout the process tend to do much better.

One other talk that Dr. Meghan attended had nothing to do with foot issues, but dealt with infertility in mares. Dr. Meghan learned some other techniques to help mares that can't get pregnant have a healthy foal.

If you are dealing with foot issues on your horses, feel free to contact Hayes Equine to consult with one of the veterinarians about corrective shoeing to make your horse more comfortable.