

HAYES EQUINE VETERINARY SERVICES

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September 2018 Newsletter

My, What Pretty Eyes You Have!

This time of year, it never fails. We always see an upkick in the number of eye problems. This is due to a number of reasons, and many of them are preventable. Just remember that painful eyes are always an emergency!

It has been said that eye pain is one of the worst pains anyone can have. When a horse gets a scratch on their eye, they are most definitely painful. The most common symptoms are squinting and watering. Most horses won't even want you to touch it. If you're lucky, eye ointment antibiotics and pain medications will get that eye to heal quickly. However, if you're unlucky, fungus gets into that scratch and fungus is extremely hard to kill. Without knowing what you are looking for, it's almost impossible to tell the difference between the two.

The number one reason we see eye problems this time of year is because the weeds are getting tall. Many of those weeds out in the pasture are just at the right height to scratch an eye while the horse is grazing. The best way to prevent weeds from causing issues is to mow your pastures. Keeping weeds at a minimum can prevent a lot of issues from even beginning. Trimming trees and shrubs can also help to prevent eye problems to keep them from being at eye level.

Another reason we see eye issues is allergies. As the bugs get worse and the horses get itchier, they tend to rub, and this includes their eyes. Depending on what the horse is rubbing on and how hard, they can either tear their eyelids or scratch their eyes. To cut down on the itching, be sure to keep fly protection on your horses, whether it be fly sprays, fly masks, leg bands, or other fly preventatives. Bathing once weekly with a medicated shampoo can also help with itching by getting rid of some of the allergens that sit on the skin.

One other way that horses get eye ulcers is their hay. It's getting to the time of year where owners start to put out round bales as the grass starts to dry up and die off. The problem with round bales is that horses like to eat a hole into them. Not only can this cause respiratory issues as they breathe in all that dust, but they can brush their eyes on some of that loose hay, or that hay can get stuck in their eyes. A good way to prevent this is to put a round bale net on your hay. Remember if you're using a net, horses either need to be barefoot or the bale also needs to have a ring around it to keep the horse from getting a shoe caught. If you're feeding loose hay, putting the hay on the ground can prevent the hay from dropping down into the eyes as the horse pulls mouthfuls out.

The thing to remember is that eyes are ALWAYS an emergency. A painful eye (squinting, watering) needs to be seen within 24 hours. Torn eyelids are also an emergency because a horse needs

its eyelids to prevent scratches. We say that eyes are an emergency because we need to get on top of scratches, hopefully before fungus takes ahold. Once fungus takes ahold of a scratch, it can take weeks to heal and thousands of dollars. We cannot stress enough that if there is any doubt on whether the eye should be seen, it NEEDS to be seen.

Teeth Special: October

We are again offering a teeth special - Every Tuesday and Wednesday during the month of October we will be offering a Special Dental Price for Teeth Floating. You can have your horses teeth floated for **\$100.00** (Includes Tranquilizer and Bute Injection) **in our Denison Clinic**. This special price does not include any additional dental services and applies only to appointments at the Clinic. Please call our office and reserve your spot for any Tuesday or Wednesday in October. No limit on the number of horses. **Free Wormer for every horse we do teeth on during special.**

Castration Signs: Sept 17th thru Sept 21st