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A Tradition of Leadership and Excellence in Equine Medicine

Equine first aid
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As a horse owner and/or farm manager there are certain basic care procedures that you should be capable of performing. These include, but are not limited to:

1. Leading and controlling your horse or foal
2. Taking a horse's temperature and heart rate
3. Administering oral, ocular, topical or intramuscular medication when directed to do so by your veterinarian.

In addition, basic equipment in your barn should include:

1. Sturdy halter
2. Lead rope
3. Chain shank
4. Twitch
5. Thermometer
6. Fresh water
7. Various sized needles & syringes
8. Available electricity
9. Containment area (stall, pen, etc.)

It is also prudent to keep a variety of commonly used medications in stock in case of emergency. Suggested supplies will vary according to the type of horses in your care but should always include:

1. Phenylbutazone (Bute) – paste, pills or IV injectable
2. Flunixin meglumine (Banamine) – past or injectable
3. Antibiotic eye ointment
4. Antiseptic soap (Betadine)
5. Antiseptic ointment (Nolvasan, Furacin)
6. Basic bandage materials
7. Broad spectrum antibiotic (Bactrim, Doxycycline or Penicillin)

Individual breed predispositions may necessitate further medications (acetazolamide for instance). Furthermore breeding and foaling facilities should also maintain the following medications:

1. Oxytocin
2. Regumate
3. Lutalyse (Prostin)
4. HcG
5. Fleet enemas
6. Ranitidine (Zantac)
7. Tincture of iodine or Nolvasan solution

It is important to store your medications as directed, and keep your equipment clean and easily accessible. It is imperative that you consult with your veterinarian prior to administering any of the above medications. By having the proper equipment, medications and basic horsemanship capabilities, you may be able to provide critical first aid and work more effectively with your veterinarian in providing good health care for your horses.