



June 2006

Previous VET NOTES

- Mare reproductive loss syndrome (MRLS) - May 2006
- April 2006 - Exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage
- March 2006 - The use of high speed treadmill to diagnose upper respiratory tract disorders
- February 2006 - Common medications used to assist breeding, cycle regulation and pregnancy maintenance of the mare
- January 2006 - Managing high risk pregnancies
- December 2005 - Affording the unhealthy horse
- November 2005 - Strangles
- October 2005 - The "dummy" foal
- September 2005 - New medications
- August 2005 - Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT)
- July 2005 - Vaccination recommendations
- June 2005 - The advantages of high fat/low carbohydrate diets for horses
- May 2005 - The Hoof: Form and function
- March 2005 - Liquid gold
- February 2005 - Breeding the problem mare
- January 2005 - Condylar fractures

Disaster preparedness

Hurricane season is here again. For many it means boarding windows, buying water and batteries – for horse and animal owners it should mean much more.

Starting with a basic first aid kit with bandage material, basic pain medication (Bute Banamine), wire cutters, scissors, antibiotic ointment, basic eye antibiotic ointment, flashlight with working batteries, and Betadine scrub, etc. Go through your first aid supplies now, making sure your drugs are updated and you have everything in a container and in a safe place. Know how to administer basic medications and treat basic injuries.

Common injuries include trauma from debris and falling branches, lacerations and dehydration. Be prepared to scrub topical wounds and bandage lacerations.

Have a back-up plan. Make sure you have three to five days of water (trash cans and muck buckets make good containers) and hay available and stored someplace where it will not get wet or flooded. Remember the power may be out for longer, so do not rely on the well pump for water.

To house your horses inside or outside during the storm really depends on your facility. A weak structure acting as your barn may be more dangerous than the horse being outside. If your building is destroyed or your area requires mandatory evacuation, make sure you have a plan. Know where in your area will provide temporary hous-



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ing for horses and how you will get your horse there. (Sale barns, arenas, race tracks). Have a truck and trailer ready and do not wait until the last minute to evacuate. Know where you are going, and for your horses' safety have them current on vaccines and de-worming. Mosquito born diseases such as Encephalitis and West Nile may be increased with standing water



after the hurricanes. Vaccinate now to ensure protection.

Do not wait until the last minute to update your Coggins – emergency Coggins are expensive and you may not be able to physically get a veterinarian to you to pull blood. Get it updated now. Have your horse

marked – phone numbers on their side in marking crayon, metal tags in the tail, neck bands or names on halters are some ideas. Make sure you have identification in case you need to show proof of ownership, such as a bill of sale, identification of horse showing you as owner (equine passport, Coggins).

You can minimize potential disaster by planning ahead. Ask your veterinarian to help you with your first aid kit, talk to family and friends about your backup or evacuation plan and have documents and paperwork in order.

We hope you have a safe and uneventful hurricane season.

- December 2004 - Early diagnosis and treatment of high-risk pregnancy in the mare
- November 2004 - Know your horse
- October 2004 - White Line Disease
- September 2004 - Announcements
- August 2004 - Reminders for pregnant mare management
- July 2004 - The heat is on
- June 2004 - Equine first aid
- May 2004 - Bacterial pneumonia in foals
- April 2004 - Digital radiographs
- March 2004 - Colic in the post-foaling broodmare
- January 2004 - Lameness and poor performance

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