



January 2007

Previous VET NOTES

- December 2006 - Neonatal Isoerythrolysis in foals
- November 2006 - Upper respiratory infections of young Thoroughbreds in training
- October 2006 - Eastern equine encephalitis—time to vaccinate!!
- September 2006 - Gastroscopy
- August 2006 - Rhodococcal pneumonia
- July 2006 - Managing limb deformities in foal with dynaslants
- June 2006 - Disaster preparedness
- May 2006 - Mare reproductive loss syndrome (MRLS)
- 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

The dental health of young performance horses

Addressing the normal and abnormal mouth of the young performance horse gives us the opportunity to shape a horse's dental health throughout its life, as well as, its performance career. Successful management of early dentistry is one more factor that will allow the horse to attain its optimal level.

Evaluating the mouth of the young horse encompasses several factors. The eruption times of the permanent teeth are one of these factors. Are the teeth erupting at the proper times? With the eruption of the permanent teeth, are the deciduous caps being shed properly? Incisor alignment is another factor to evaluate. Is the horse "monkey mouthed," "parrot mouthed" or normal? Abnormal incision alignment will affect the wear of all the teeth throughout the horse's life.

These examinations and teeth floatings generally start at the time the horse is learning to handle the bit. This is also a good time to remove wolf teeth if they are present. The wolf tooth is a rudimentary tooth that serves no purpose to the horse and may in fact be a nuisance when it comes to biting. It is recommended that these be removed.



Cheek teeth or premolars and molars are the final points of evaluation.

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Problems with these teeth include enamel points, retained caps, and dental impactions. All sharp points and corners should be removed. This prevents cheek ulcerations and great discomfort when the bit pulls the cheeks across the teeth. Loose, fragmented or displaced caps should be removed as well. Poor cap shedding can lead to impaction of that tooth. This may result in the tooth needing to be removed. Care should be taken when removing caps, as to not remove them too early. This may damage the permanent tooth.

The horse's mouth should be balanced whenever possible to prevent uneven wear and encourage symmetrical shedding of the deciduous teeth. Young horses have dynamic mouths that change rapidly. Good, proper dental care will lead to increased success in many facets of the horse's life.

Equine Herpes Virus I - update

No new cases of the Equine Herpes Virus—Type 1 (EHV-1) have been confirmed in Marion County since the one initial case was confirmed in mid- December. The efforts of the affected farm's management and their veterinarians are commended as they were effective in preventing the spread of this contagious virus. The following is an update from the State Veterinarian as of December 31, 2006:

Efforts are currently underway to control an outbreak of a neurological form of Equine Herpes Virus – Type 1 (EHV-1) in the Wellington, Florida area. We are attempting to provide daily updates on our web site at:

<http://www.doacs.state.fl.us/ai/> .

EHV-1 is considered a reportable disease in the State of Florida. State personnel have been working with veterinarians and the affected industry carrying out traces of exposed horses, quarantining and monitoring infected and presumed infected premises, and working to trace and communicate the status of the outbreak and control efforts.

As of December 31, 10 premises were under quarantine with 12 laboratory confirmed infected cases, and 6 associated deaths. This virus is believed to have been introduced with the importation of some European horses quarantined at a USDA import center in New York and moved to Florida. Tracing of potentially exposed horses is ongoing.

Although EHV-1 is not listed as a dangerous, transmissible disease in our regulations, the high mortality rate and the national and international concerns related to the neurological signs of this disease make it a reportable disease. Our rule states; "Any person who has knowledge of, or suspects, the existence of these diseases or pests in the state which may be foreign or newly emerging diseases that might result in unusually high animal loss, economic damage, or is suspected of causing human-disease, should immediately report suspicions or findings to the State Veterinarian". Under the rule, EHV-1 is considered reportable.

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- 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
- December 2004 - Early diagnosis and treatment of high-risk pregnancy in the mare
- November 2004 - Know your horse

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