



VET NOTES

October 2008

Previous VET NOTES

- October 2008 - Interstitial pneumonia - a different kind of lung disease
- September 2008 - The yearling sales
- August 2008 - Eastern Equine Encephalitis—have you vaccinated
- July 2008 - Castration complications
- June 2008 - The use of acupuncture as a diagnostic aid in the equine lameness exam
- April 2008 - Current parasite control recommendations
- March 2008 - The use of Oxytocin in the post-partum mare
- January 2008 - Preparing your mares for the breeding season
- January 2008 - Proximal hind limb suspensory desmitis: (PSD): Part II: Treatment
- December 2007 - Pleuropneumonia - when shipping fever turns into a nightmare
- November 2007 - Proximal hind limb suspensory desmitis (PSD): Part I: Diagnosis
- August 2007 - Intramuscular injections
- June 2007 - A hard pill to swallow
- April 2007 - The advantages of high fat/low carb diets

Periodontal Disease

Periodontal disease in the horse is the loss of tissues and structures around the tooth due to presence of disease. This disease is common in horses across all age groups. Approximately 40% of horses aged 3-5 have some form of periodontal disease and this is typically due to the eruption of their permanent dentition. A decreased level of disease is seen in horses between 5 and 10 years. Then at age 15 and up approximately 60% or greater of horses have periodontal disease at differing severities.

Signs of periodontal disease typically fall into four categories. The mildest form is a local area of gingivitis with reddening and inflammation of the gum tissues. As this progresses, you get regression of the gum margin and the initial formation of periodontal pockets. Periodontal pockets are areas in the gum between teeth where feed stuff gets trapped. If left alone this can progress to gum loss and even further to loss of bone and loosening of bone support of the tooth.

There are several causes of periodontal disease. The most common cause is abnormalities in the wearing of the tooth. If the tooth is not wearing evenly over its life, it leads to feed not being chewed properly and efficiently, thus more plaque and gum irritation. The other cause is tooth eruption. As the “baby” teeth fall out there are going to be some gingival pockets normally until the permanent teeth mature and start to come into wear. When periodontal disease results from tooth eruption it is generally mild and resolves on its own. The occurrence of periodontal disease can be minimized by regular routine floating to ensure even and proper wear in the teeth. If some periodontal disease exists, depending on the severity, your dental professional may need to correct the abnormal wear pattern, eliminating or minimizing the periodontal pocket, make the pocket bigger to enable food to be flushed out naturally, or in the worst case, extraction of the tooth – which should be the last resort.

It is important to care for and maintain the oral health of your horse and periodontal disease is just additional evidence of this fact.

Adam S. Cayot, D.V.M.



2008 marks the 25th anniversary of Peterson & Smith Equine Hospital.

Our veterinary practice was established in 1981 by Drs. John L. Peterson and Johnny Mac Smith, and the hospital opened its doors on SW 60th Avenue in 1981. We have grown into one of the most recognized equine veterinary practices in the country, if not the world. Our success is due not only to our skilled veterinarians and staff, but to our very loyal clients and the supportive equine community.

As you know the City of Ocala has been deemed “the horse capital of the world,” and for many Marion County residents, horses are more than just a lifestyle - they are a livelihood. By striving to provide our horse owners with the highest standard of care, we have become the largest equine practice in the Southeastern United States.

We would like to thank the equine community for graciously allowing us to become an integral part of their “world”.

- March 2007 - Bandaging
- February 2007 - Single screw compression V. Screws and wire (Transphyseal bridging)
- January 2007 - The dental health of young performance horses
- 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 dynasplints
- June 2006 - Disaster preparedness

We're on the web:
www.petersonsmith.com



4747 SW 60th Avenue
 Ocala, FL 34474

Phone: (352) 237-6151
 Fax: (352) 237-0629
 Email: PSEH@petersonsmith.com

*A Tradition of Leadership and
 Excellence in Equine Medicine*