



### Previous VET NOTES

- October 2011 - Why do an MRI?
- September 2011 - ICSI—cutting edge reproductive technology
- August 2011 - The pre-purchase exam
- July 2011 - Furosemide and exercise-induced pulmonary hemorrhage (EIPH)
- June 2011 - Eastern Equine Encephalitis—have you vaccinated?
- May 2011 - Under tack dynamic respiratory scope
- December 2010 - Equine Piroplasmiasis
- October 2010 - Sand colic
- September 2010 - Vaccines
- July 2010 - Rhodococcus in foals
- June 2010 - Wound Management
- March 2010 - Pharmacy Notes
- February 2010 - Cryptorchidism in the horse
- December 2009 - Selection of mares for embryo transfer
- October 2009 - Tying-up Syndrome
- September 2009 - Flexural deformities in the forelimbs of foals
- August 2009 - Equine Cushing's Disease

### Breeding Season is just around the corner . . .

Breeding season is almost here, and it will soon be time to prepare mares for breeding. The following includes a few tips for those interested in breeding for the first time.

Mares are seasonal breeders and some factors that influence reproductive activity include length of daylight, environment, nutrition, age, breed, and stabling. Mares going into breeding season in poor body condition are less likely to cycle and have decreased conception rates compared to those with better body condition scores. If you feel your mare is underweight, make sure appropriate nutrition and increased calories are provided. The mare's teeth may need to be checked and any potential underlying illness or metabolic issue addressed.



The natural breeding season of the mare extends from April to October in the Northern hemisphere. During these months mares will exhibit multiple heat cycles. In the winter months most mares will shut down and enter a prolonged phase without ovulation referred to as anestrus. Artificial lights can hasten the onset of first ovulation of the year so mares can be bred earlier. The light perceived by the eye is transmitted to the pineal gland and melatonin levels decrease. Once this occurs the body is able to produce the hormones responsible for cycling. The type of light does not matter, but the amount is imperative. We suggest 30 to 60 days of long light period in order for ovaries to become active. One suggestion is adding light to late afternoon to make up a total of 16 hours of light per day starting just after Thanksgiving. You should add enough light that a newspaper could be comfortably

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**Tanya M. Thacker, DVM**

read in the stall. Transition period is the time between anestrus and normal cycling and involves hormone imbalances. It can be a complicated time for breeders and veterinarians. Mares can have long erratic cycles not always accompanied by a crucial ovulation. Once mares have had their first ovulation and return to cycling, they're much more predictable.

The mare should have a breeding exam performed to make sure normal ovaries are present. The cervix and conformation of the vulva should also be assessed. Tilting of the vulva predisposes the mare to uterine infections and pooling of urine. It can be extremely difficult to get a mare with these conditions in foal. A minor surgical procedure known as a caslicks may be used to prevent aspiration of air, bacteria, and fecal matter into the reproductive tract. A uterine culture and cytology to rule out inflammation, bacteria, and fungal pathogens is often helpful. It is ideal for the mare to be in heat to obtain appropriate samples.

## OTHER SERVICES AT PETERSON & SMITH

### Chiropractic services

If you would like to set up an appointment with our equine chiropractor, Dr. Andrea Cogswell, please call the office at 352 237 6151, Dr. Cogswell will be available November 10–16, 2011.

### MRI

If you would like to have more details on the mobile MRI unit or want to set up an appointment just call to speak with Dr. Faith Hughes

### Ophthalmic consultation

Dr. Noelle McNabb, DVM, DACVO is available for ophthalmic consultation with Dr. Carol Clark, DVM, DACVIM please call for an appointment.

- July 2009 - Corneal ulcers
- June 2009 - Laparoscopic surgery: A new way to look at things
- May 2009 - Equine cardiology
- April 2009 - Single screw compression update
- March 2009 - Resistance to anti-parasitic drugs
- November 2008 - Periodontal Disease
- 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

We're on the web:



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