Woodside & Woodside North Equine Clinic Equine Health Times

Quick Links

WEC Website

AAEP Website

What are our Doctors up to?

Dr. Claudia True was awarded the 2015 VVMA/MVMA/WVVMA/ VMCVM Mentor of the Year.

Congratulations Dr. True!

Dr. Meg Hammond is currently taking courses at Parker University in Texas to become certified in veterinary chiropractic. She will finish her course and be available for chiropractic

Breeding or Foaling This Spring? Be Prepared

Dave Stanford, DVM, DACT

So you decided to take the plunge and breed your mare?! If she will be bred this year or is due to foal this year, planning ahead can make the difference between a healthy foal and a lot of time and money spent with nothing to show for it. While it all seems so simple--you pick a stallion, breed your mare and 11 months later you get your expected foal, and if you pick the right stallion for the right mare and breed them at the right time, the odds are in your favor. Right? When you consider all of the details that have to occur at just the right time, you can understand why it is called the ***miracle*** of life! Let's take a look at some of the important steps that will give you the best chance of success.

Before you pay any fees or sign a breeding contract with a stallion owner, you want to make sure your mare is a good candidate for breeding. Healthy mares between the ages of 4-10 that have a body condition score of 5 or 6 make the best candidates. While older mares

evaluations this fall.

Dr. Scott Anderson was invited to and attended the 11th Annual Dr. Benoit Ultrasound Lameness Wetlab in Hudson, Wisconsin.

Horse fly woes

We have had several owner's call lately with reports that they have seen blood on their horses back hooves only to look up and see that their mare's udder or their gelding's sheath is covered in large flies that resemble bees.

When feeding, horse flies create a "slash" and cause more bleeding than most fly bites. This causes swelling, bleeding, and large red scabs.

If you find your horse has been affected, we recommend cold hosing the area to clean away any dried blood and to help and reduce swelling. Apply a triple antibiotic ointment to the wounds and apply (liberally!) fly repellants like sprays or ointments to the area to discourage these nasty critters from returning!!

Most of these cases improve very quickly within a day with proper cleaning and treatment.

that are bred for the first time can be successful, the likelihood of success is decreased and it may take multiple breeding attempts and more expensive intervention to produce a foal. You should have a breeding soundness examination done by a veterinarian experienced in equine reproduction. This will include a thorough examination of her reproductive tract by palpation and ultrasound to assess any possible abnormalities. A uterine culture and cytology as well as a uterine biopsy are sometimes included as well to further assess her potential fertility. Some abnormalities can be corrected to improve fertility while others may be permanent and a change in plans would be in order.

Once it is determined that your mare is a good candidate, you need to pick a stallion that will be a good match for your mare. But it is just as important to pick a stallion that is fertile as well. You will need to ask questions and do some research on the stallion before making a commitment, especially for stallions that will be breeding with cooled/shipped or frozen semen. Most reputable breeders are more than happy to answer your questions about the stallion's fertility. You should be suspicious if they are unwilling or evasive about such questions.

The third factor in having a successful breeding is the people involved. This is especially important when cooled/shipped or frozen semen is to be used. For the best results, you need to have veterinarians who are experienced in equine reproduction involved with both the stallion and the mare. The processing of the semen for shipment, the timing of the breeding, and post breeding follow-up are critical to achieving the best results. Once she has been bred, it is crucial to have an ultrasound pregnancy exam done at 14-16 days after ovulation to check for twins. Follow up exams done at 30, 60, and 150 days of pregnancy are also important to evaluate early fetal and placental health.

When your mare is in foal, it is essential to maintain her good health and that of the foal with proper nutrition, vaccination and parasite control. Her level of nutrition will increase in the last trimester as the foal grows larger and she prepares for lactation. Broodmares will need boosters of the Rhino (equine herpes virus 1) Vaccine the mare against Rhino (equine herpesvirus 1) at her 5^{th}, 7^{th}, and 9^{th} month of pregnancy to prevent this viral infection that can cause abortion. Four to six weeks before her due date, she should receive pre-foaling vaccines. At this time, a final ultrasound exam can be done to check the health of the foal and the placenta as well as check to see that the foal is facing in the proper orientation (head and front feet to exit the birth canal first). If any of these are abnormal, treatments can be started or plans made for assisting with a difficult birth.

Preparing for her foaling requires close monitoring for signs of impending delivery (udder development and waxing, relaxation of the vulva and the muscles and ligaments around the tail). Most mares foal between 10 pm and 2 am and the time from her water breaking to delivering the foal is usually only 15-30 minutes. If a problem occurs and no one is around to intervene or call for help, the chance of having a live

http://msucares.com/insects/beef/horseflies.html for more information on Horse flies

foal is poor and the health of the mare will be in jeopardy as well. While 90% of mares will foal without problems, you don't want to risk all of the time, effort, and money that you've invested to be one of the 10% that has a problem without a plan for getting help. If you are not able to monitor your mare during the foaling process or if veterinary help is too far away, it is a good idea to send her to a foaling facility where experienced people can assist with any problems that may arise.

If you have any questions about breeding your mare or foaling, please contact ***Woodside Equine Clinic at (804) 798-3281*** or ***Woodside North Equine Clinic (540) 423-3100*** to speak with a veterinarian or schedule an appointment.

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"Ways to Keep a Happy Healthy Horse During Parasite Season"

Charlotte Tate, DVM

As spring ushers in nice weather, we also have the return of parasites. Internal parasites like the nice weather just as much as we do, and they leave their cozy environment within our horse's GI tract and start shedding into the environment. We also see ticks and flying insects appear almost overnight! So it is a fitting time to remind everyone about the diseases carried or caused by parasites and guidelines for controlling and treating internal and external parasites. By understanding how our horses get exposed to certain diseases we can attempt to reduce the risk of disease.

One of our biggest challenges through the spring, summer and autumn is controlling external parasites. Flying insects can be very irritating to horses causing avoidance behaviors such as stomping their feet, swishing their tails and biting and kicking at their sides. Some horses get hypersensitivity reactions to insect bites causing such things as eosinophilic granulomas or sweet itch. We also worry about ticks and mosquitoes because they can carry very serious diseases that can infect both humans and our animals. So what particular disease are vector borne and what are some ways we can reduce the risk of disease and exposure????

Which vectors carry or cause which diseases?

- **Mosquitoes - EEE, WEE, West Nile Virus**
- **Ticks - Lyme disease, Anaplasmosis**
- **Caddisflies and Mayflies - Potomac Horse fever**
- **Culicoides, also known as no-see-ums-Sweet itch**

Which diseases carried by parasites do we regularly vaccinate against?

- **EEE**
- **WEE**
- **West Nile Virus**
- **Potomac Horse Fever**

As we know vaccines reduce the risk of disease or the severity of disease, but they are not 100% effective at preventing disease. So what other ways do we reduce the risk of exposure?

Farm management tips for controlling internal and external parasites

- **Remove manure from stalls several times a day to reduce flies**
- **Install automatic fly spray systems**
- **Mosquitoes and no-see-ums are weak flyers, so fans keep your horses cooler and reduce mosquitoes**
- **Clean out water troughs and buckets regularly**
- **Eliminate or treat standing water around the farm**
- **Keep manure piles away from barns and pastures, or have manure carried away by waste removal services**
- **Pick the manure out of small pastures at least twice a week**
- **Do not drag pastures unless the ambient temperature is hot and the pastures can be left unoccupied for at least 2 weeks**
- **Do not allow pastures to become overgrown, creating optimal environments for ticks**
- **Remove thick brush or leaf litter from edges of pastures and create buffer areas between where horses graze and wooded areas**

Horse management tips for controlling internal and external parasites

- **Follow vaccination and deworming protocols recommended by your veterinarian, to see our current guidelines please follow this link**

http://www.woodsideequineclinic.com/32.html

- **Use fly sheets and fly masks**
- **Horses sensitive to culicoides can be kept inside during dawn and dusk, when these insects are most active**
- **Use fly repellants and parasiticides effective against flying insects and ticks**
- **Use long acting topical treatments against flies and ticks**
- **Check your horses daily for ticks**

We also want to introduce a topical product we have available for the use on your horses called Vectra 3D. Vectra 3D can be used to protect your horses against flies, biting insects and ticks. For more information about this product, please ask us.

Blog: Diaries of a Veterinary Intern

"The Amazing Eye of the Horse"

Megan Mathias, DVM

Introduction: The eye is one of the most fascinating and intricate parts of equine anatomy. As a lover of ophthalmology, I may be a bit biased, but I think most will agree that the eye is one of the first things that catches our attention when we approach a horse. We place so much emphasis on the appearance of the eye that phrases like "He has a kind eye" or "He has a worried eye" are commonplace in barns, at shows, and even at veterinary clinics.

The eye is an extremely complex structure with intricate anatomy. My goal is to help simplify a few of the basic structures of the eye so that you can better understand that there is more than just magic in how the eye works. First, a few fun facts!

1. The equine eye is the largest eye of any land mammal-yes, including giraffes!
2. Horses can see a total of 350 degrees around them
3. Horses have "Dichromatic" color vision meaning they can see two colors-shades of **blue** and gold.

To read more about the structures of the eye including the Cornea, Iris, Lens, and Fundus please follow this link to our blog: Blog Woodside Equine Clinic !

Our practice devotes its charitable giving efforts to the AAEP foundation. The foundation is commited to supporting education, research and benevolent efforts for horses and their caretakers. If you'd like more information or to donate to the Foundation you can visit the website at AAEP Foundation .

Sincerely,

Woodside & Woodside North Equine Clinic