



## Woodside & Woodside North Equine Clinic Equine Health Times

### Quick Links

[WEC Website](#)

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This month's focus:

### Optimal Hoof Care

by Dr. David Stanford

### What's New!

Wellness Plans are now available! We recognize that no two horses are the same and you should have the ability to better tailor your horse's care to fit his or her needs. We are excited to introduce customizable plans and packages to give you the best Wellness experience and the healthiest equine companion in 2018.


The old adage "No foot, No horse" is as true today as it ever was. The majority of lameness problems originate from the foot and many of these can be avoided with proper foot care. The keys to good hoof health include good nutrition and weight management, management of the environment, regular cleaning and care of the foot, and of course good farrier care on a regular basis. Neglecting any of these areas can result in foot problems that can range from minor issues such as thrush, to life threatening issues like laminitis and a multitude of other problems including white line disease,

**Go to our web site to sign up!**  
<https://woodsideequineclinic.com/wellness-plans/>



**What is our Staff up to?**

Dr. Anderson, Leslie, and Debbie headed to Louisiana this month for a Veterinary Management Group meeting. They came back with great ideas to add to our practice and business plans!

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hoof abscesses, canker, hoof cracks, chronic bruising, and hoof imbalances.

Proper nutrition gives your horse the necessary building blocks to grow a healthy foot. If you have any questions about your horse's diet we would be happy to talk to you about it when we come out for wellness visits. Managing your horse's environment includes daily thorough stall cleaning and pasture management to try to prevent long term standing areas of mud and water. Good hoof care should include regularly picking out and examining the foot for any early problems such as thrush and initiating treatment before it becomes more serious.

Maintaining regular farrier appointments is essential for good hoof care. Your farrier will recommend the optimal schedule for your horse to keep their feet in the best condition. They can identify many problems before they become serious and recommend veterinary care if needed. One of the ways we as veterinarian can work with your farrier to provide optimal foot care for your horse is through the use of X-ray technology. Two simple views of each foot can provide the vet and farrier with important information about the position of the bones in relation to the hoof wall and sole that can direct the best course of trimming and shoeing for your horse for optimal hoof care. With digital radiography we can review the radiographs with the farrier on the farm. If the farrier cannot be present, we can email them for review before the next farrier appointment. Not every horse needs this but many would benefit from it. Talk to your farrier or call us for more information.

The radiographs (below) show a lateral view of a front and hind foot. The front foot has a toe flare that can be trimmed back to establish a better break-over point which will decrease stress on the joints and flexor tendons. The hind foot has an excessively long toe compared to the heel which results in an abnormal coffin bone angle which will also put more stress on the lower joints as well as the hocks. Trimming and shoeing the foot at the correct angle in relation to the bony structures can increase comfort and prevent wear and tear on the joints, tendons and ligaments.



Front Foot



Hind Foot

**Intern Blog:**  
**Click to read about the adventures of**  
**Dr. Rachelle Ludwick and Dr. Jane**  
**Snead**



Our practice devotes its charitable giving efforts to the AAEP foundation. The foundation is committed 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](http://AAEP Foundation).

**Sincerely,**

**Woodside & Woodside North Equine Clinic**

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