



Wellness Program

At Woodside Equine Clinic, 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 happy to offer customizable plans and packages to give you the best Wellness experience and the healthiest equine companion in 2021.

The **SILVER WELLNESS PLAN** covers the needs of most horses in our practice. This biannual package includes spring and fall wellness exams with consultation on nutrition and parasite control. Also included are spring and fall vaccines, two fecal tests, a Coggins test, and an oral exam with dentistry and sedation. *(Silver Plans are available for purchase from January to June due to the inclusion of two annual visits with the plan. A Bronze plan can be purchased after June)*

The **BRONZE WELLNESS PLAN** may be suitable for horses who seldom travel or are never exposed to new horses. This package includes one wellness exam and consultation on nutrition and parasite control. Also included are two fecal tests, spring vaccines, and an oral exam with dentistry and sedation. Timing of these once yearly vaccines is important; therefore, we recommend Bronze appointments be set up for late spring only.

The **WELLNESS UPGRADE OPTIONS** offer customized package options to best suit your horse's needs.

CBC/Chemistry: provides a complete analysis of your horse's blood profile

TRH stim/Insulin: can aid in early identification and treatment of health problems in aging horses. *(Testing must be completed by July 1)*

Physical Exam and Consultation

A physical exam is one of a veterinarian's most valuable diagnostic tools and is one of the most important aspects of routine preventative health care for your horse. A physical exam includes evaluation of your horse's vital parameters (temperature, heart rate, and respiratory rate). Your veterinarian will also auscult (listen to with a stethoscope) your horse's heart, lungs, and gastrointestinal tract. Auscultation of these organs can identify heart murmurs or arrhythmias, abnormal lung sounds indicative of various respiratory issues, and can potentially identify the presence of sand within the large colon. A basic ocular (eye) exam is also performed to detect any significant abnormalities and/or age-related changes. The body condition of your horse will also be assessed and a weight tape will be used to estimate their weight. Following the exam, your veterinarian can consult with you on any significant findings noted on the exam and address any questions or concerns you may have.

Vaccinations

In addition to proper management, vaccination is generally considered one of the important and cost-effective methods of disease prevention. Your veterinarian will consult with you regarding the vaccination needs of each individual horse. Many major vaccine companies now offer vaccine guarantees, which provide financial assistance for diagnostics and treatment if your horse were to become ill from a disease that it has been properly vaccinated against. These vaccine guarantees are typically only honored if your veterinarian is the one to vaccinate the horse to ensure the vaccines have been properly handled.

Rabies

Rabies is a neurologic disease that is zoonotic (transmissible to humans) and is always fatal once contracted. This vaccine should only be administered by a licensed veterinarian. In Virginia, if the vaccine is not administered by a veterinarian, the horse is considered unvaccinated for Rabies.

Tetanus

Tetanus is a neuromuscular disease caused by the toxin of a bacterium that typically enters the body through a puncture wound. The bacteria are commonly found in the environment. Tetanus is a difficult and expensive disease to treat and is potentially fatal.

Eastern and Western Encephalitis

These two forms of encephalitis are both neurologic diseases which are almost always fatal, if not extremely difficult and expensive to treat. Mosquitoes transmit the disease to horses, as well as to humans. Our area is at a high risk for encephalitis, and unvaccinated horses infected with this disease rarely survive.

West Nile Virus

West Nile virus (WNV) is the leading cause of arbovirus encephalitis in horses and humans in the United States. This virus is transmitted by mosquitoes and causes severe neurologic disease. The virus cannot be transmitted between horses and humans.

Potomac Horse Fever

PHF is a bacterial infection transmitted by water-dwelling insects and causes diarrhea and has the potential to cause laminitis. The vaccine for PHF is not 100% effective in preventing the disease but is believed to lessen the symptoms and their severity if infected. Influenza: Influenza is a highly contagious respiratory virus transmitted from horse to horse via aerosolized nasal secretions.

Equine Herpes Virus (Rhinopneumonitis): EHV is another highly contagious respiratory virus transmitted horse to horse via aerosolized nasal secretions. This virus generally causes an upper respiratory infection; however, there are different forms of the virus, some of which have the potential to cause other diseases, including a neurologic syndrome as well as abortion in pregnant mares. It is important for horses who are traveling or boarded with other horses to receive the

Flu/Rhino combination vaccine twice yearly. If your horse's potential exposure is higher due to a heavy travel schedule, your veterinarian may discuss more frequent vaccination for these diseases with you.

Oral Examination and Dental

In addition to a physical examination and vaccinations, routine dental care is another important aspect of your horse's overall health care plan. As a part of our Wellness Program, a thorough oral exam will be performed under standing sedation with an oral speculum. Examination also includes the use of a mirror and a dental explorer/pick. If deemed necessary, dentistry will be performed to remove any sharp enamel points which have developed and correct any mild abnormalities including hooks, ramps, or wavemouth. A thorough oral exam also allows us to identify more advanced conditions such as a loose or fractured tooth, or periodontal disease. Treatments for these types of conditions are not covered under the Wellness Program and are an additional charge. Sedation for the dental is included in the package.

Fecal Parasite Analysis

Due to the development of parasitic resistance, our approach to deworming is based on fecal egg counts. This allows us to determine an individual horse's parasite burden and develop a deworming program specifically based on that horse's needs. Every horse should be dewormed a minimum of twice yearly. Any additional deworming will be based on the results of the fecal analysis. By using this method, we are helping to reduce the overuse of dewormers. Keeping your horse's parasite burden low may decrease the risk of colic, anemia, and respiratory problems which can arise due to migrating larvae. Two fecal analyses per year are included in our both of our Wellness Programs.

Coggins Test

A Coggins test is performed to identify the presence of antibodies in the horse's blood against the Equine Infectious Anemia virus. This virus is transmitted by biting flies and there is no vaccine or cure for this disease. This test is required for most horse shows, boarding facilities, interstate travel, and for the horse to come to our clinic. A Coggins test is good for one year. A Coggins is included in our Silver Wellness Plan.

The Complete Blood Count (CBC) and Chemistry Profile Package

This routine blood work is another tool in monitoring your horse's overall health status. The CBC is used to identify any signs of anemia, infection, or inflammatory disease. The chemistry profile is an indicator of organ function by measuring enzymes and electrolytes in the blood and comparing them to a standardized range.

The TRH Stimulation/Insulin Laboratory Test Package

The TRH stimulation test is the preferred test for Equine Cushing's disease. It provides a much more reliable and earlier diagnosis than testing ACTH alone. Horses that have already been diagnosed with Cushing's do not need a TRH stimulation test, but may need a baseline ACTH to determine if their medication dose is correct or an Insulin test if they also have Equine Metabolic Syndrome. During the TRH Stimulation test, TRH (thyrotropin releasing hormone) is given intravenously to stimulate ACTH. The TRH stimulation test is most accurate when used during the months of January through June. Insulin and glucose are often elevated in horses with equine metabolic syndrome. Note that for scheduling, horses need to be off grain for 12 hours (hay and grass are fine). This means that they should not get grain the morning before their appointment. Not sure what plan will best fit your horse's needs? Please call our office to speak with one of our veterinarians who will be happy to consult with you.