



KIRKTON VETERINARY CLINIC

Fall 2011 Updates

Veterinarian updates!

Dr. Bob Young - has had an exciting summer in 2011, with the marriage of his son Greg early in June. Aside from the wedding excitement, the horses of the KVC have kept him working hard! Bob has spent his free time enjoying his cottage and a fishing trip.

Dr. Katie Crossan - has been keeping herself occupied this summer spending time with her family, riding her own horse Danny, and supervising her son Tiernan on his pony! We can't wait to see little Leah riding too!

Dr. Jenn Hodge - has had a busy summer at work with the KVC, but has still managed to keep up with her riding. She is set to make her showing debut at the Autumn Classic later this month in Palgrave, ON with her horse Sake.

Dr. Carly Telfer - has had a very productive and successful summer showing her horse Parker in a number of dressage shows across Ontario. They are currently showing Third Level and are qualified for the provincial championships in September. Good luck guys!



Looking ahead to the cooler weather...

Somewhat sadly, this summer is drawing to a close! Here at the KVC we are hoping everyone has enjoyed a safe and successful summer with their equine partners.

We wanted to take some time and update everyone with some of the latest tidbits of info coming from our clinic - things that we hope will make it even easier for us all to stay in touch and keep current with our horses' health.

Most importantly - we have a REAL website!! Our office manager Bree has undertaken this extensive project and has finally gotten us up and running. This will be an ongoing project, so keep checking back regularly - we will continue adding information to keep things up to date. Please let us know if there is any specific information you would like to see added! Check it out!!

www.kirktonvetclinic.com

Some other important news:

- **Online banking is now available.** Please call us if you have any questions about getting started. 519-229-8911
- **We are still on Facebook!** Please spread the word to your friends and check in regularly for important bulletins regarding your horses' health
- **Equine Extravaganza is set for March 2012** We are welcoming any suggestions for topics you would like to see covered at this year's event. Let us know on the farm, or give us a call at the office.

Tips for cold-weather blanketing...

This is the time of year most people start digging through their garages to find the winter blankets they haven't seen for the past six months. There are some important things to remember when deciding whether or not to blanket, and when choosing the right blanket for your horse.

- 1) Not every horse needs to wear a blanket. Reasons for choosing to blanket may be for cosmetic and/or practical reasons – for example horses that continue showing or exercise heavily through the winter months – or it may be for health related issues – such as older horses that have difficulty maintaining their weight through the cold winter months.
- 2) Blanket fit is CRITICAL! When selecting a blanket for your horse, it is very important to ensure it fits properly. A blanket may be very high-quality and expensive, but if it doesn't fit, you may as well get rid of it. Areas of greatest importance are through the shoulders and wither area, where any pressure may result in unsightly rubs or pressure sores.
- 3) Blankets need to be clean and in good repair. Just as you wouldn't wear the same sweater all winter without washing it, your blankets also need laundering! Skin infections can arise from filthy blankets, and accidents can happen from broken buckles/straps dangling. Make sure your blankets are in good condition before cozying up your equine friend!

Any questions? Feel free to ask us to take a peek when we are on-farm, or give us a call anytime - we would love to help!

Dental fix-ups!

Elderly equines need your attention now! As pasture starts to decline over the next few months, our horses start relying more heavily on hay for their nutritional requirements.

For older horses, or those with poor mouths, this can become problematic as hay requires a lot more grinding (and thus, good teeth!) to digest properly. If you have any concerns about your horse's mouth, this is the time to give us a call – send them into the winter months in tip-top shape!

* PREGNANT MARE ALERT *

If you have a pregnant mare, it is probably time to start planning your anti-abortion vaccine schedule. "Pneumabort" as most people know it, is a vaccine against the viral disease EHV-1 that is associated with abortion. Vaccines should be administered at 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy for the ultimate protection. Call us to schedule your series of vaccinations today 😊

Deworming 101...

For those of you that haven't yet done your late summer/fall fecal egg counts (or dewormed your horses, depending on your deworming schedule) this is a fine time to drop your poop samples off at the clinic. Egg burdens in our pastures are at their highest right now – so targeted deworming is the best way to protect your horses!

Mid-winter (Dec/Jan/Feb) is a great time to plan your yearly tapeworm attack! Tapeworms are the one parasite that can affect your horses even if you have a spotless pasture. This is because the life cycle of the tapeworm involves a small mite that lives in your pasture grass – horses acquire tapeworms after eating these mites while grazing. Tapeworms are also one parasite that doesn't show up very often in fecal egg counts – because they shed "packets" of eggs instead of individual ones. This means once a year deworming for tapeworms should be on everyone's agenda!

Products available for tapeworm control: Quest Plus, Equimax, Zimectrin Gold, Equalan Gold. These all contain the active ingredient Praziquantel. Double dose Strongid is also an option.