



# KIRKTON EQUINE SERVICES



Dr. Katie Crossan | Dr. Lisa Aurini



## HOLIDAY HOURS

December 23 - 8am to 6 pm

December 24 - 8am to noon

December 25 - Closed

December 26 - Closed

December 31 - 8am to noon

January 1 - Closed

*Emergency Services are available  
24 - 7. Reach us at:*

*(519) 229 - 8911*

*1 - 888 - 443 - 4184*



## Tapeworm Reminder

If you have not already done your fall tapeworming, there is no time like the present. Look for products with the word "gold" or "plus" in the title. These contain an ingredient called praziquantel, which will target those pesky parasites. Alternatively, a double dose of pyrantel pamoate (Strongid T) will also kill tapeworms.

Please note that tapeworms are spread through ingestion of a mite which lives in your pastures. Even immaculate pastures are susceptible to this insect. In addition, tapeworm eggs do not routinely appear on fecal egg counts, even in horses with tapeworm infections. Therefore, annual deworming is important, even in low shedding horses.

## Caring For Your Horse In The Winter

Southwestern Ontario is preparing for yet another chilly winter. For our equine counterparts, this means a little extra TLC to help them stay happy and healthy during the frigid winter months.

- The average 1000 lb horse needs an extra 372 cal per day for every degree below - 15 C, to maintain their daily requirements. Consider supplementing a pelleted ration or providing an additional meal each day.
- Blanketing your horse when the temperature drops provides added warmth and protection, reducing the amount of energy required to maintain a normal body temperature.
- Ensure adequate shelter is available at all times. High winds, blowing snow, and freezing temperatures can result in difficulty staying warm, and even frost bite.
- Pay particular attention to geriatric horses. Equine senior citizens often have the most difficult time in the winter. Ensure adequate dental care has been given. Mix warm water with pellets to make a mash which is easier to consume for older horses who are often missing teeth, and therefore have difficulty grinding their food.



## Preparing for a Winter Emergency

Blustery winter weather can mean road closures or lengthy delays for your veterinarian when driving to an emergency. Preparing yourself for these inconveniences can help relieve stress and increase the likelihood of a good outcome:

- Call early! - If you suspect your horse may be having a medical emergency, call us ASAP. The faster we can get on the road, the faster we can get to your horse before they get into a crisis situation.
- Keep a first aid kit in your barn - Supplies such as bandaging materials, basic wound care supplies, a thermometer, stethoscope, and any medications you routinely keep on hand should be fully stocked.
- Ensure you know the address where your horse is stabled and that there is a clear accessible path to the barn.
- Reduce the risk of an emergency - Ensure proper hydration to help prevent impaction colics and frequently inspect your property for sharp objects which can cause lacerations.

When in doubt, call us for advice! We are here to help 24 - 7 and phone calls are always free.

## Tis' The Season For ... Colics!

Canadian winters have long been associated with snowy days and frigid temperatures. When the temperature drops, horses have a tendency not to drink as much as they do during the warm summer months. Inadequate hydration can quickly lead to impactions in the equine digestive system and a subsequent visit by your veterinarian!



Try some of these tips to increase your horse's water intake:

- Heated water buckets ensure your horse always has access to warm, unfrozen water.
- Add salt to your horse's ration. Just like us, added salt stimulates thirst and encourages your horse to drink more. Please contact your veterinarian for advice regarding salt supplementation.
- Make a delicious warm mash! Soaking pelleted feed in warm water increases water intake and also provides a warm winter treat. In addition, soaking your horse's hay for 20 - 30 minutes prior to meal time will make it more easily digestible and also increase water intake.
- Ensure your horse is up to date on preventative dental care. Poor dentition will make it more difficult for your horse to chew its food properly, thus causing hay not to be ground into small particles which are easier to pass through the digestive system.
- Worms begone! We often associate impactions with food, however large parasite burdens in the intestines can also cause painful impactions. Proper deworming can take care of this problem. Contact us for information on which deworming product is best for your horse.

Remember, colics can be life threatening! Preventative measures can greatly reduce the risk of your horse encountering this scary problem.

## Reminder: Pregnant Mare Vaccines

For all of you expectant owners, remember to have your mare vaccinated with Pneumobort at 5, 7, and 9 months gestation to help prevent abortion associated with EHV - 1. Regular vaccines should be boosted 6 - 8 weeks prior to her due date, in order to provide adequate protection for the foal. Tetanus, in particular, is of huge importance!