



SUMMER UPDATES 2012

CLINIC NEWS...

SUMMER STUDENTS

For the past few months, you may have noticed some extra bodies on-farm with our veterinarians. These are likely to have been vet students or prospective vet students looking to gain experience out in the real world. These students provide us with an extra set of helping hands and are a wonderful source of information for you, the clients! Take the opportunity to ask them your questions – they will be more than happy to oblige ☺

WNV VACCINES

It's not too late to vaccinate! If you haven't done so already and have been considering protecting your horse against West Nile Virus – this is the time! Last year, Ontario saw a large increase in the number of horses diagnosed with clinical WNV disease, with late summer/early fall being a time of increased transmission. It is much easier to vaccinate than to treat, so call us today!



Our Canadian Olympic Show Jumping Team 2012

The vets of the KVC have been busy this season keeping up with the sporting endeavours of our clients and their horses! This is the time of year everyone seems to be out and about – competing, trail riding, and just enjoying our equine companions!

The hot weather this summer has presented a bit of a challenge for everyone, and it doesn't appear to be letting up anytime soon! We want to give you some tips on beating the heat and keeping your horses comfortable, as well as touch on a few issues that we have seen pop up frequently this season:

- Foot abscesses
- West Nile Virus
- Parasite resistance

Here's wishing everyone a happy and healthy end of the summer – please let us know if there is anything we can do to make it more enjoyable or successful for you ☺

OLYMPIC EQUESTRIAN TV COVERAGE

With the London 2012 Olympics about to kick off on Friday July 27, many horse owners and competitors are anticipating some excellent performances from our Canadian athletes. To make your event-viewing just a little easier, CTV has posted a schedule of events and channels covering the Olympics on their website:

<http://www.ctvolympics.ca/viewers-guide/index.html>

Happy viewing and best of luck to our Canadian team!

BEATING THE HEAT!

Most horses cope reasonably well with changes in temperature, however extreme temperatures such as the heat and humidity we have seen this summer present an issue to our older and younger horses, as well as those with respiratory conditions such as “heaves”.

Clinical signs you can watch for that may indicate that your horse is suffering in the heat are as follows:

- Lethargy, dullness
- Lack of appetite, unwillingness to drink
- Excessive sweating, fever
- “Puffing” or an increased respiratory rate

If you notice any of these changes in your horse, it may be best to give us a call for some free advice, but in the meantime, here are some tips to keep your horse cool in the heat:

- Provide access to clean, cool water at all times
- Filling old plastic containers (milk jugs, etc) with water and freezing them can make nice ice cubes for water troughs
- If horses are kept outside, ensure they have an area to escape from direct sunlight (run in shelter, trees)
- Hosing horses down with cool water can help quickly lower their body temperature
- Hanging fans in front of stalls or using fans in the barn can help improve ventilation and keep things cool
- Adding water to the grain, or soaking hay can help keep your horses hydrated if they are not drinking as much water in the hot weather

EMERGENCY CARE: THE FOOT ABSCESS

There has been an epidemic of foot abscesses in our practice area this spring! That may be a slight exaggeration, but many clients have been struggling with persistent foot abscess that can be frustrating, and cause delays in training or competing.

Horses with foot abscesses tend to suddenly (overnight) appear quite lame. We often see abscesses in front feet predominantly, but hind feet can be affected as well. The horse may be mildly lame, severely lame, or even non-weight bearing on the affected foot. The hoof tends to feel warm or hot in comparison to the other feet, and they tend to have a strongly increased digital pulse.

First aid for a foot abscess involves moving the horse to an area with soft bedding, poulticing the hoof to draw out infection, and sometimes anti-inflammatories and/or antibiotics. If a lameness persists, an x-ray may be required to visualize the abscess area and help open a tract for drainage.

DEWORMING 101

Do you have questions about what to deworm your horse with this summer? Or maybe you think it's time to check a fecal sample? Give us a call and chat with one of our equine vets to figure out the best plan for your horse!

This is a great time of year to do fecal samples and monitor your herd for the development of parasite resistance. Roundworm resistance (especially to ivermectin-based products) has recently become an issue in our practice area, particularly with young horses. Don't let this become an issue in your herd – give us a call today!

COME OUT TO CONBRIO!!

Conbrio Farms, located at the corner of Medway Road and Denfield Road in Arva, ON is hosting a series of Jumper Development shows concluding this fall. The Kirkton Vets are providing on-site veterinary services at these fabulous events, and they are welcoming observers and participants alike. Come on out for a day's worth of fun and exciting horse sport and visit with us!

Remaining show dates are

- Saturday, August 4, 2012
- Saturday, September 1, 2012

Details are available on the ConBrio website: www.conbriofarm.com

