

- Kurt Lutgens, DVM
- Christina Hill, DVM
- Thomas K.C. Welch III, DVM

March 2007

Spring Vaccination Special

It is now time to think about scheduling spring vaccinations for your equine friends. The doctors at Battenkill Veterinary Equine recommend the following vaccines for your horse this spring:

Five Way (Eee/ Wee/ Tet/ Flu/ Rhino)

West Nile Virus

Potomac Horse Fever Rabies

Intranasal Strangles

This vaccine package is available until May 30th at a reduced price of \$88. If you need a Coggins test with your spring vaccine package, the price at that time will be \$24. If there are six or more horses at one location receiving the

full spring vaccine package, the farm call charge will be waived.

For those of you that have horses that are enrolled in the Preventi-Care program, the enrolled horse(s) must be dewormed by us twice a year with an Ivermectin product. We recommend "Equimax" or "Equell".

A fecal exam is the best way to see how your deworming program is working. You may also consider doing a lyme snap test (see pg 3) to screen for this prevalent disease.

Please call soon to schedule your appointment.



We at Battenkill Equine have great concern for the continued health of your horse and encourage you to take this opportunity to invest in preventative maintenance and ask any questions you may have about your horses health.

(518) 692 - 2000

Our Newest Doctor - Thomas K. C. Welch III, DVM

Dr. Thomas Welch has been with us since June of 2006. Originally from Oregon, he received his Bachelors degree and a masters degree at Oregon State University and went on to acquire his Doctoral of Veterinary medicine at Ross University. An experienced horseman, Dr. Welch understands the important relationship you have with your horse. We are proud to have him as a member of our team.



Dr. Thomas K.C. Welch III

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She's Having A Baby! What You Need To Know

The birth of a foal is an exciting experience for horse owners and can sometimes be a bit daunting for the inexperienced. Here is some information for you about the process and what you should expect if your mare is expecting.

The gestation period of normal pregnancies can range anywhere from 315 to 365 days, but is typically around 340.

It is important that the mare receives pre-foaling vaccines and is regularly dewormed throughout her pregnancy. She will need an EHV -1 vaccine (one that is safe for pregnant mares) at 3, 5, 7, and 9 months and should receive the other recommended spring vaccines approximately 4-6 weeks prior to foaling.

Your mare will show signs close to foaling that will give you a pretty good idea of when she is ready, but be sure that you are prepared early so the time can be as low stress as possible when it arrives.

PREPARE A STALL

Make sure you have a proper stall for your mare to foal in. A large stall that has been disinfected and is free of any hazards (nails/splintering wood) is appropriate. Feed and water containers should be located so that they will not interfere with foaling or the new foal's efforts to rise. Clean straw is the bedding of choice, as it does not stick to a newborn's wet body and doesn't irritate their eyes and mucous membranes like smaller particles of wood shavings may do. It is also best if the stall is in a quiet, peaceful location where your mare feels safe.

SIGNS YOUR MARE IS GETTING READY TO FOAL

- ◆ Muscles around tail head become soft 2-4 weeks before foaling.
- ◆ The vulva relaxes and elongates.
- ◆ The udder begins to fill.

- ◆ Sometimes the mare will show slight signs of "uneasiness" about the last two weeks before foaling.

- ◆ Waxing of the teats usually occurs 24-48 hours prior. (You will see sticky droplets on the ends of the teats.)

- ◆ It is possible that your mare may "leak" some milky fluid an hour to a day before parturition.

Every mare is different; some will show all these signs and others few. If you notice any vaginal discharge or premature udder development, contact us immediately as this may indicate a compromised pregnancy.

THINGS TO HAVE ON HAND

- ◆ Vetrax or brown gauze to wrap mares tail
- ◆ Towels
- ◆ Enema
- ◆ Umbilical clamp (can be purchased from us)
- ◆ Povidone-iodine solution to disinfect naval stump
- ◆ Phone and phone number to contact Vet if needed

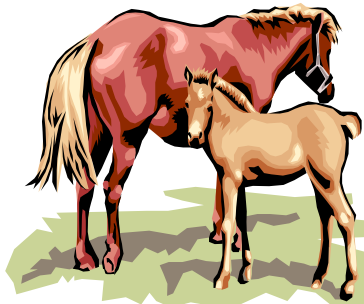
THE 3 STAGES OF LABOR

1st - 2-24 hours; you will notice the abdomen appears more concave above the flank and behind the ribs. Uterine contractions cause nervousness, erratic eating, sweating, pacing, etc. If your mare appears abnormally uncomfortable and you think she is showing signs of colic, contact us right away.

2nd - Up to 30 minutes; delivery will occur shortly after the water ruptures. You should see two front feet, one slightly ahead of the other, soles down, and the nose will be tucked

between, around the knees. Call us right away if you see :

- ◆ Only one foot/more than 2 feet
- ◆ Feet upside down
- ◆ No nose/ nose and no feet
- ◆ Red tissue (placenta) prior to foaling



The sac will typically break as the foal emerges but if it does not, open it to

free the foal and wipe the nose and mouth. Allow a normally breathing foal to lay with the mare until you see the blood in the umbilical cord cease to pulse. Vigorously rub a non-breathing foal with towels to stimulate it until it begins to breathe. At this time you may cut the umbilical cord, about three inches from the body, dip the stump in the antiseptic and clamp it close to the body.

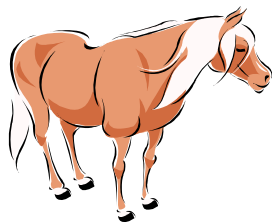
3rd -The placenta is passed at this stage. Before it passes, the placenta that is hanging from the mare should be tied up to prevent her from stepping on it and tearing it. If it has not passed it in two hours, call us immediately. Once the placenta passes, a thorough examination should be performed to be certain that the mare did not retain any of it. Retained placental materials are harmful to your mare.

The mare will be cleaning the foal and it will be trying to rise at this point. The foal should be on it's feet and nursing no more than 2 hours post delivery. An enema should be administered to the foal to aid in the passing of the meconium (feces).

Proper early management is your best defense against future issues. If you suspect any problems at the time of foaling or after please contact us immediately. Even after a normal delivery, a veterinary exam should be performed to be certain there are no problems.

"Even after a normal delivery a veterinary exam should be performed to be certain there are no problems."

Laminitis - The Dangers of Lush Spring Pastures



Obese horses are more at risk

Laminitis is an inflammation of the lamina - the sensitive tissue inside your horses hooves. It has many causes and many levels of severity, ranging from mild to life threatening and is an extremely painful condition for the horse.

Laminitis can be acute or chronic. The signs of the acute phase are rapid in appearance and include sweating, an

extreme rise in temperature, a pounding digital pulse in the affected foot, and a stance where the horse appears to be leaning back with it's legs forward to relieve pressure. The quicker anti-inflammatory drugs can be administered the better. All efforts to relieve pain will be beneficial, such as creating a very deep bed in the horses stall.

Chronic Laminitis is characterized by downward rotation of the coffin bone. Corrective shoeing can often aid a horse at this point.

Eliminating the cause is the best remedy for avoidance of the problem. One of the leading triggers is excessive consumption of carbohydrates, either from a feed room "break-in" or gorging on lush green grass. Horses that are overweight are extra vulnerable to the condition. **Take your time when acclimating your horse or pony to the grass this spring.** It could make a huge difference!

Lyme Disease - Prevention Is The Best Medicine

Lyme disease is most commonly transmitted by the bite of infected ticks. The ticks must attach to a host and feed for 12-24 hours before they can transmit the bacteria to infect the host. Therefore, prompt removal of ticks is helpful in preventing the disease. Keeping tall grassy/weedy pastures trimmed down will help with tick control on your property.

Large adult ticks are the most likely to be found on horses, often congregating around the head, throat-latch, belly, and under the tail. They are usually easily detected during grooming. To remove a tick, grasp the mouth parts adjacent to the skin with tweezers and pull back gently but quickly to minimize the

risk of leaving a piece of the body attached. Unfortunately we are not always able to completely prevent the disease with careful tick control. Clinical signs of infection are usually lameness, stiffness, and behavioral changes such as increased irritability and a decline in the work ethic. Fever may or may not be present.

If your horse is exhibiting these symptoms, a blood test is the only way to be certain of a lyme disease diagnosis.

To treat Lyme disease, the equine patient is hospitalized and intravenous antibiotics are administered for a seven day period. Hospitalization is necessary due to frequent gastro-intestinal sensitivity to the antibiotics. Supportive probiotic therapy is used during treatment. A 30 day follow up supply

of oral antibiotics is dispensed to the owner at the time of discharge from the clinic, along with explicit instructions on dosage and what to watch for. An additional blood test six months after the completion of oral treatment is done to check the status of the horses condition. This treatment is typically effective in significantly decreasing/eradicating the effects of the disease, but be aware that an infected horse will continue to have elevated titers .

This year we are offering a blood test that can be run at the farm. It is very reliable and will be used as a screening test. Blood with positive results will be sent away for further testing to determine the horses level of infection. We recommend the on site blood test as part of your spring health program.

A thorough daily grooming will aid in locating any lyme disease causing ticks.



EHV -1 (Herpes) : Our Advice



Minimizing the risk of Your horse's exposure is the best way to avoid infection.

There is a lot of concern and questioning lately about Equine Herpes Virus 1, and rightfully so as the disease has shown up at several locations in the country. Horse owners do not need to panic, but proper precautions should be taken regardless of the prevalence in the area.

EHV- 1, or "rhinopneumonitis", is a contagious viral disease that can cause respiratory disease, abortion, and the big offender these days, **Neurologic disease**. A large majority of horses are carriers of EHV and disease is only seen when the virus is activated by stress. The virus is easily spread horse to horse in the air or on community items such as feed troughs, water tubs, etc. It cannot be spread to hu-

mans but can be transported on clothing, shoes, etc.

The vaccine that is available for rhino does not directly protect against the neurological manifestation of the disease but **keeping your horse up to date on the vaccination is highly recommended** to reduce the risk of disease. We recommend you vaccinate every 90 days.

Sick horses should be immediately isolated. New horses or those returning from another barn/show should also be isolated for at least 7 days. Horses that you know have been exposed should be isolated for at least 21 days. Body temperature should be monitored closely. Always care for the sick or isolated horse last and do not

enter the main barn with the same clothing/boots you wore taking care of the isolated one(s). Generic disinfectants such as bleach are effective at killing the virus and can be used to clean facilities.

Before you take your horse to a new area/ barn, check on the current health status/ risk of exposure of the horses there. At this time, avoiding exposure is the best way to avoid risk. Our doctors are staying informed on all current developments in the EHV-1 outbreak around the country and are happy to answer any further questions you may have. We will certainly keep you updated on any new developments in this area.

**Battenkill Veterinary
Equine P. C.**

Corners Of Rte 29 and 40 South
PO Box 2
Middle Falls, NY 12848

Phone: (518) 692-2000
Fax: (518) 692-7554
info@battenkillequine.com

To Our Valued Clients:

*Here for the health
of your horse.*

Digital Radiology

Battenkill Equine is excited to announce that we now have a portable digital X-Ray available for ambulatory and in hospital calls. This advanced technology allows our doctors to evaluate X-Ray's immediately after they are taken and provides an exceptionally detailed and clear image of the bony structure being assessed.

Battenkill Equine would like to thank you for your continued trust in us— Best Wishes for a safe and happy 2007!

Dr. Kurt Lutgens Tammy Duel
Office Manager

Dr. Christina Hill Sabrina Hitchcock
Licensed Vet Tech

Dr. Thomas Welch Nicole Piekarz
Vet Assistant

**Look For Us On The Web -
Coming by March 15th :
www.battenkillequine.com**

