



- ◆ Kurt Lutgens, DVM
- ◆ Christina Hill, DVM
- ◆ Sarah Begley, DVM

Spring 2009 Newsletter

Spring Vaccination Special

With spring just around the corner, and welcome indications of the approaching change of season beginning to occur, remember to schedule spring vaccinations to keep your equine friends protected. At Battenkill Veterinary Equine, we recommend a spring vaccine protocol that includes the following immunizations:

5 way

Includes:

Tetanus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, Influenza, and Rhinopneumonitis

Potomac Horse Fever and Rabies

West Nile

Intranasal Strangles

This specific grouping of vaccines is offered at a reduced cost of for each horse receiving the complete package. For large groups of horses at one location, there will be a minimum call charge per owner. Call us soon to schedule your appointment as this special price will only be available until May 30th. A de-worming with Equimax® (ivermectin/praziquantel) is also recommended at this time.

Be sure to check if your horse's Coggins test needs to be updated. Your spring vaccine appointment is a good time to get this taken care of. This is also a good time to have your horse's teeth checked. Additionally, as lyme disease continues to be on the rise, causing

various symptoms including stiffness, lameness, and behavioral changes, you should consult one of our veterinarians to determine if this test would be of benefit to your horse. We at Battenkill Veterinary Equine have immense concern for the continued health of your horse and encourage you to take this opportunity to invest in preventative maintenance and pose any questions or concerns you may have.



Welcome Back Dr. Sarah Begley



Dr. Sarah Begley was born and raised in Tennessee. She graduated from the University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine in 2001 and completed an internship in Equine Medicine and Surgery at Peterson and Smith during the years of 2001-2002. Dr. Begley moved to Greenwich, NY in 2002. She has been practicing equine medicine for over seven years, and has a special interest in

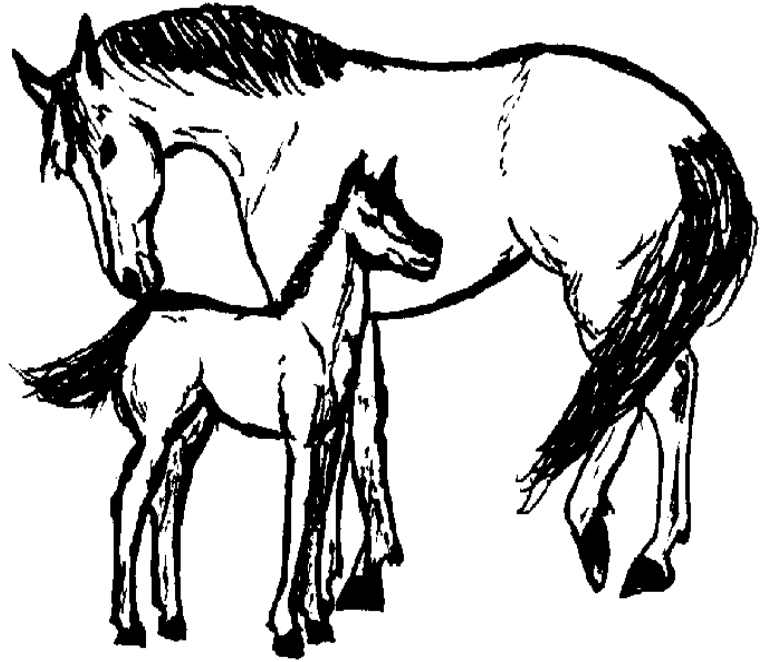
reproduction, neonatology, and ophthalmology. Her co-pilot "Lana" attends her on her calls daily.

A lifelong horse enthusiast, Sarah is currently training in three day eventing and dressage with her Thoroughbred Diego and former polo-pony, Dora. Dr. Begley has been a member of our team in the past and we are pleased that she has rejoined the practice.

Vaccinating Pregnant Mares

“Assuming the mare has been vaccinated properly prior to foaling, a new foal does not require any inoculations until it has reached 5-6 months of age.”

Pregnant mares should be vaccinated for EHV-1 at 3, 5, 7, and 9 months. This vaccine aids in the prevention of abortion due to EHV 1 infection. Additionally, 4-6 weeks prior to the mare's expected foaling date, she should receive a course of pre-foaling vaccines that includes EEE, WEE, tetanus, influenza, rhinopneumonitis, Potomac horse fever, rabies, west nile virus, and strangles. Assuming the mare has been vaccinated properly prior to foaling, a new foal does not require any inoculations until it has reached 5-6 months of age.



De-worming Schedule

Our recommended de-worming schedule is as follows. This information can also be found on the “client education” page of our website (www.battenkillequine.com). All of these de-worming products can be purchased through the clinic or from the doctor at your next appointment.

Late winter (Jan)-
Ivermectin
Early Spring (March) -
Panacur
Spring (May) -
Ivermectin
Summer (July) -
Pyrantel (Strongid)
Fall (Sept) -
Ivermectin
Early Winter (Nov) -
Double dose of
Pyrantel (Strongid)

If you suspect your horse has a worm infestation, the clinic can perform a fecal exam from a small, fresh sample of your horse's manure. It is a good idea to have this done periodically even if your horse seems entirely healthy. Internal parasites can do a lot of damage if gone unmanaged. Drop off a sample to be tested at the clinic or send one with the doctor at your next appointment. The regular fecal exam is good preventative medicine.

Increased Stress and Equine Gastric Ulcers



The demands of the show season can be very stressful on equine athletes. Horses thrive on a routine existence and the stress caused by disruptions to that routine, such as changes in feed and/or exercise regimen and increased time in the stall or trailer, may inspire the formation of gastric ulcers. While these ulcers are usually treatable, the better news is that they are preventable. The orally administered drug Omeprazole can be used in both the treatment and prevention of equine gastric

ulcers: Merial's Ulcergard® is used for prevention while Merial's Gastrogard® is used for treatment. Both of these products are available through Battenkill Veterinary Equine. The websites for these products contain more information too, www.ulcergard.com and www.gastrogard.com. If your horse has a demanding schedule impending it may be wise to start them on a preventative medicine regimen using Omeprazole. Contact the clinic if you are interested in discussing this option.

The Pre-Purchase Exam: A Sound Investment

“Do not expect the vet to render a “pass or fail” result at the completion of the exam. Any exam findings will be interpreted in light of the horse’s potential use.”

If you are currently shopping for a new horse, or have future plans to do so, you should realize the integral role the pre-purchase exam must play in the process. Making the effort to have this exam performed may possibly save you from many future headaches and frustrations. There is no way to guarantee a horse’s future soundness; however, a thorough exam and consultation, during which the veterinarian accounts for the horse’s history and intended future use, is the best way to gain confidence that purchasing (or not purchasing) a particular horse is a wise choice. A pre-purchase exam can range from a simple physical evaluation to a complex assessment including radiographs and lab-work.

Obviously, the more involved exam will allow for the most information to be discovered. You and the veterinarian can communicate to determine just exactly what should be included in your pre-purchase exam.

A few things to consider when preparing for a pre-purchase exam:

*You should know and be able to clearly define your expectations for the horse to the veterinarian.

*You should learn and be able to relay to the veterinarian the most accurate and complete history on the horse available.

*Do not expect the vet to render a “pass or fail” result at the completion of the exam. Exam findings will be interpreted in light of the horse’s potential use.

*It is best if both the seller and the prospective buyer are present for the exam; this will help avoid any miscommunications. However, the seller should respect that the veterinarian’s findings and how they affect the buyer’s ultimate decision are private topics of discussion between the buyer and the veterinarian.

*Remember that no horse is perfect; you will likely find something potentially undesirable about each horse that you look at and it may come down to how far you are willing to go to manage what is discovered. It is very wise to invest the necessary time and money into a thorough pre-purchase exam; it may protect you from making what could be a poor decision.

Nutritional Supplements

Open any horse supply catalog and you will likely be faced with a seemingly endless variety of equine nutritional supplements. This plethora may cause you to question the soundness of your own feeding program. Many horse owners may gaze at the multitude of products available and wonder “does my horse need a supplement for his feet? Should I be feeding for joint support? What about his coat? Is it healthy enough or could it use a little more shine?” Truth of the matter is, the majority of easy-keeping pleasure horses do quite well on a diet of high quality forage (hay) and sometimes the addition of a well balanced and nutritionally complete grain product. However, in some cases supplementing the equine athlete’s diet is an appropriate choice. For example, if your

horse has a poor coat and/or brittle hooves even though they are being fed appropriately and you and your veterinarian have ruled out any systemic reason for their condition, you could try feeding a supplement that is designed to target these issues. Or perhaps you demand more than the occasional pleasure ride from your equine friend and they are in heavy training for a rigorous discipline such as eventing or upper level dressage; in this case you may want to consider adding a nutraceutical designed for joint health and maintenance to his/her feed regimen. Ideally you would do this in conjunction with injectable joint support products such as Legend® or Adequan®. (If you wish to learn more about the benefits of these injectable joint support products please contact the clinic to speak with one of our doctors.) Another

daily supplement that many horse owners choose to employ in their feed program is a daily de-wormer such as Strongid C2x®. (Feeding this product is one of the requirements for your horse to be enrolled in the Pfizer PreventiCare® colic assistance program. Contact the clinic for more information on this program or view the PreventiCare page on our website, battenkillequine.com.) When considering supplementing your horse’s diet be aware that the manufacturing and retail of nutritional supplements is not regulated by any federal administrations; it is best to seek the advice of a veterinarian regarding which supplements have proven to be effective. Battenkill Equine stocks a variety of products that we believe to be the best available for oral nutritional supplementation.



Please note our change
of mailing address:

PO Box 112
518 State Rte 29
Middle Falls, NY 12848
Phone: (518) 692-2000 Fax: (518) 692-7554

To Our valued Clients:

We're on The Web!
www.battenkillequine.com

Spring Considerations



Ahh, springtime...

no more frozen water
buckets and more time in
the saddle!

A few things to keep in
mind during the change of
seasons:

- Lush green grass may seem like the perfect treat but there is always the possibility of too much of a good thing. Limit your horse's turnout time on new spring grass to avoid complications such as laminitis and colic.

- Keep your horse's feet picked out and their stall clean and dry to combat the development of hoof problems such as thrush.
- Get your horse's premises as manure free as possible before the temperature increases; this will help deter flies from reproducing and becoming a nuisance/health concern.



- **Call Battenkill Veterinary Equine today to schedule spring vaccinations!**