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## Spring Vaccination Special

Spring is just around the corner!



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**

### 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](http://www.battenkillequine.com)). All of these de-worming products can be purchased at the clinic or from the doctor at your next appointment.

This specific grouping of vaccines is offered at a reduced cost for each horse receiving the complete package. For large groups of horses at one location, there will be 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 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 great time to get this taken care of. This is also a good time to have your horse’s teeth checked. (See back page for more information on equine dental health.)

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 performing a Lyme test would be a good choice for your horse this spring. At Battenkill Veterinary Equine we 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.



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

If you suspect your horse has a parasite 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.

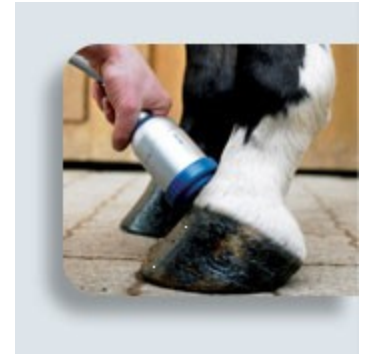
## Shockwave Therapy

**“The energy in the shockwaves is transferred to the tissue being treated; they interact in a way that stimulates healing and has a pain relieving effect”**

Battenkill Veterinary Equine is now offering Shockwave therapy. A shockwave is a high-pressure, low frequency sound wave. These waves are produced by a Shockwave machine with a specially designed probe that allows for direct application of focused shockwaves to the affected area. The energy in the shockwaves is transferred to the tissue being treated; they interact in a way that stimulates healing and has a pain relieving effect. Pain conduction by the local nerves is blocked for a period of time following treatment.

Shockwave therapy originated as a non-invasive method of treating kidney stones in humans. It has since become an accepted modality in the treatment of a number of orthopedic conditions in both humans and animals. Conditions addressed in horses include, but are not limited to:

- Navicular disease/syndrome
- Joint inflammation
- Tendon and ligament injuries
- Back pain
- Sacro-iliac pain
- Sesamoiditis
- Splints
- Ringbone
- Kissing spine
- Caudal heel pain
- Angular limb deformities in foals
- Osteoarthritis
- Osteochondrosis lesions (OCD)
- Muscle soreness



Battenkill Equine began using Shockwave therapy within the last 12 months. We have already seen benefits in both acute and chronic conditions. The typical therapeutic regimen will consist of three to four treatments, one to two weeks apart from each other. Equine insurance will sometimes cover focused Shockwave therapy. Contact the clinic for more information about this new procedure.

### Vaccinating Pregnant Mares

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. Schedule post-partum exams for the mare and foal at 18-24 hours of age. We recommend bloodwork at this time to evaluate the foal's blood cell and immunoglobulin levels.



### Horse Owner Education Seminars

The Cornell Cooperative Extension of Saratoga, Albany, and Dutchess counties, and local veterinary practices, will be co-hosting a series of horse owner education seminars this spring with Dr. David Pugh of Pfizer/Fort Dodge. A range of concerns such as **parasite control, nutrition, and colic** will be addressed. These seminars will include the most current information about these topics. Dr. Pugh's work has been extensively published and he has received numerous teaching awards, as well as being the recipient of the 2006 University of Georgia AM Mills Award for contributions to veterinary science. These seminars will be a great educational opportunity!

Dr. Pugh will be available at the following **times and locations**:

- Monday March 22nd at the Cooperative Extension Farm and Home Center in Millbrook, NY
- Tuesday March 23rd at the Cooperative Extension and 4H Center in Voorheesville, NY
- Wednesday March 23rd at the Cooperative Extension Equine Center on Middle Line Road in Ballston Spa, NY

The presentations will run from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. There will be refreshments available and a nominal \$5 fee will be charged, the proceeds of which will be donated to an equine charity. It is preferable for you to pre-register with your veterinarian for these seminars so that plans can be made to accommodate all who attend. See our website also for details: [www.battenkillequine.com/ClientEducation](http://www.battenkillequine.com/ClientEducation)

## Laminitis and Founder

**“Laminitis causes severe pain and can progress into an even more severe condition known as founder.”**

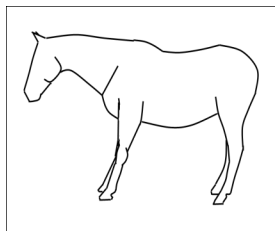
The condition known as laminitis is the inflammation of the laminar tissue that separates the bony structures of the hoof from the hoof wall. Laminitis causes severe pain and can progress into an even more serious condition known as founder. When a horse ‘founders’, the supportive tissue has weakened or deteriorated to the point that the coffin bone inside the hoof is no longer maintained in the optimal position and begins to rotate downward. This puts painful pressure on the sole of the hoof and, in the worst cases, can actually progress to the point that the bone punctures and comes through the sole. Laminitis has many potential **causes**, some of which are manageable by the care giver.

- Obesity.
- Carbohydrate overload from the over-consumption of grain and/or grass, especially lush, fast growing spring grass.
- Mechanical damage from excessive concussion on hard surfaces.
- Infection from retained placenta following foaling.

- Use of corticosteroids in prone horses.
- Excessive long term weight bearing, usually to compensate for an injury to the opposing limb(s).
- Metabolic conditions such as Cushing’s Disease and Insulin resistance.
- Many serious illnesses can also result in laminitis.

### Some signs of laminitis are:

- Frequent shifting of weight
- Stiffness/lameness in gait
- Resistance to move
- Standing with weight shifted to the hind end, appearing to be leaning backward, as seen below.



- Laying down excessively and resistance to rising.
- Hooves warm to the touch with increased digital pulses (on back of pasterns)

### What can be done:

- Consult with your veterinarian to determine the best treatment plan for your horse. He or she may recommend some of the following, depending on the situation and the individual needs of your horse.
- Hoof support that may provide relief, from Styrofoam pads to corrective shoes.
- Drug therapy to reduce pain and inflammation.
- Stall rest or restricted exercise.
- Dietary changes.

Some horses are predisposed to the condition and may experience chronic cases. The long term prognosis is dependent on many factors and really cannot be predicted. It is best to manage your horse’s care so as to discourage the development of laminitis, if possible. In the event that your horse does develop laminitis or founder, prompt and thorough treatment under the supervision of your veterinarian is their best chance at recovery.

## Equine Cushing’s Disease

Equine Cushing’s Disease is a condition most frequently affecting older horses. Common symptoms include a long “shaggy” hair coat that does not shed normally, a “hay belly”, and/or abnormal areas of fat accumulation. (cresty neck, fat at tail head, etc.). On a biochemical level, when a horse has Cushing’s it is because a benign tumor has developed on the pituitary gland. This tumor over-stimulates the adrenal gland, which in turn produces excess amounts of cortisol, a hormone associated with stress. Cushing’s horses are prone to

laminitis, and are sometimes more susceptible to infection. They may recover more slowly from wounds or surgery than unaffected horses. Their risk of parasite infection is higher as well. Diagnostic testing is available for Cushing’s. Your veterinarian will use the results of these tests *in combination with clinical symptoms* to determine a diagnosis of Cushing’s. The available tests are not always definitive methods of identifying the condition. They can result in false positives, reveal levels that are close enough to normal to allow their accuracy to be questioned, or indicate other conditions (such as Equine

Metabolic Syndrome, which presents in very similar ways). This is why it is important to look at each case from a holistic perspective, taking all factors into account. Treatment of Cushing’s typically includes the use of the drug Pergolide, and management of secondary conditions (such as laminitis) with appropriate medications and supportive care. Changes in the diet may be necessary as well. Early detection and treatment are the keys to a horse with Cushing’s leading a normal and productive life.



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*To Our valued Clients:*

**We're on The Web!**  
**[www.battenkillequine.com](http://www.battenkillequine.com)**

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## **The Importance of Equine Dental care**



A horse's teeth grow continuously throughout their life. Fresh grass is abrasive enough to cause continual wear, but most horses do not live on a diet of strictly fresh grass.

In order for a horse to effectively grind their food, their upper molars are spaced apart a little wider than the lower ones. This is a vital anatomical feature for the wild horse, but is also part of the reason for the domesticated horse needing routine dental care. The "softer" foods of the domesticated horse's diet do not effectively wear the teeth, causing raised edges, usually on the outsides of the upper molars and the insides of the lower molars. This abnormal structure creates a sort of locking feature when the horse tries to move his lower jaw from side to side, causing the edges to become larger and sharper over time. Eventually those edges turn into what are referred to as 'points', which are often razor sharp and can cut into the horse's inner cheek or tongue when chewing. This is painful by itself and can be further irritated by the introduction of a bit, or the pressure from the cheek-pieces/noseband on a halter or bridal.



This is only one example of why it is important to have your horse's teeth examined regularly, and floated when necessary. Battenkill Equine is fully equipped to service your horse's dental needs. Please call to make an appointment to address this essential component of your horse's routine health maintenance.