



## THE VISITING VET VOICE

The Visiting Vet Inc.

Spring, 2011

### **Equine Early Detection Package Offered this Spring!**

Visiting Vet is offering an Equine Early Detection Package which includes the following:

- Basic Equine Chemistry panel
- Complete Blood Count
- Fibrinogen Level
- Fecal Egg Count
- Coggins (EIA)

The cost of this package is only \$130!

This proactive approach to equine medicine utilizing five different lab tests, can establish a base line for your horse's health history and provide the doctor with information that may point to a potential health problem.

### **GERIATRIC PANEL FOR DOGS & CATS**

Visiting Vet is also offering a geriatric panel for dogs and cats. Did you realize that dogs often become hypothyroid and cats become hyperthyroid? The panel includes: Complete Blood Count, Basic Chemistry, T4, and fecal.

The cost of this comprehensive package is \$130.

### **SPRING VACCINES**

The American Association of Equine Practitioners has recommended the following **core vaccinations**:

Tetanus, EE & WEE, Rabies, West Nile- administered annually

**Risk Based Vaccines:** are given depending on the region, travel, and exposure level  
Strangles, Potomac Horse Fever, Botulism, Anthrax, Equine Viral Arteritis, Rotavirus

**Recommended every 3—6 months:** Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis  
Vaccines must be given on an individual basis. Please consult Dr. Gaffney or Dr. Peckham to customize a vaccination program for your horse.

### **ADVERSE REACTIONS TO VACCINATIONS**

After receiving vaccinations intra-muscularly, some horses will have local muscular swelling, soreness, fever, anorexia, and lethargy. Occasionally, the horse will experience systemic reactions like hives, facial swelling, or difficulty breathing. Please notify our office if your horse experiences any of these symptoms. Action can be taken to make your horse more comfortable and prevent these reactions in the future.

## **EASTERN EQUINE ENCEPHALITIS (EEE) IN MICHIGAN**

The number of cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) has increased dramatically in Michigan! There were no cases of EEE in 2009 in Michigan, but in 2010 there were 133 cases. The State Veterinarian is attributing the increase in cases to the downturn in the economy resulting in fewer horses being vaccinated.

EEE causes an inflammation within the brain resulting in neurological symptoms such as: blindness, difficulty eating, stumbling, tripping, falling, salivating, and inability to get up. EEE is transmitted by mosquitoes, and the host reservoir are birds. All horses are exposed to birds and mosquitoes regardless of show/clinic schedules.

EEE is a virus and can only be treated symptomatically once infected. The best prevention is vaccination!

EEE is included in the core spring vaccine package. Be sure to vaccinate before the mosquito season.

## **EQUINE DENTAL CARE**

Regular dental exams and equilibrations (floating) should be performed at least annually in all horses. To properly visualize the teeth, a light, speculum, and sedation must be utilized for the complete exam. Feel free to watch over Dr Gaffney's shoulder – the difference in the before and after equilibration is truly amazing and very rewarding. The cost of a routine dental exam, float and sedation is \$125. Extractions, radiographs and removal of extensive tooth overgrowth is additional.

## **Nutritional Consultation Now Available for Your Horse!!**

Is your horse over or underweight? Do you worry that they are not getting adequate vitamins and minerals? Did you know that the average 1000 pound horse drinks between 3 ½ to 7 gallons of water a day? Visiting Vet is now offering a nutritional consultation. We will evaluate your horse(s), their body condition, and the goals that we are aiming for in either weight gain, loss, or maintenance. Your current ration (grain and hay) will be analyzed. Dietary energy, protein, vitamins, and minerals will all be taken into account. With all of this information, we will help you to develop the best feeding program to meet the needs of your horse. Please call the office to discuss setting up an appointment to have your nutritional consultation!

## **Equine Sarcoids: The most common skin tumor of the horse.**

Sarcoids are the most common skin tumor in horses. They are a benign, locally aggressive tumor with a mean age of occurrence at 3 to 6 years of age. The exact cause is unknown but is thought to be a papillomavirus. Sarcoids usually present as an area of skin thickening and hair loss, with or without ulceration. They can also appear as a slow growing mass or nodule under the skin. They can be found at any location on the body including the sheath, neck, and head. Size and location play a large role in the success of treatment of sarcoids. Sarcoids can be fairly easily treated with surgical removal when they are small. Larger lesions can be more difficult to treat. Implantation of chemotherapeutic agents directly into the larger tumors may be a very successful form of treatment. There are also several topical medications, both traditional and homeopathic, that can be applied regularly to the lesions to help resolve them or reduce their size before another treatment protocol is utilized. Immunotherapy has been reported to be beneficial in resolution of these some of these lesions as well. Cure is considered hair regrowth at the location of the lesion.

Recurrence rates after therapy depend on the modalities used; rates can approach 100% for some. Prognosis for survival in animals with single sarcoids is good because the tumors do not metastasize. Tumor size, location, degree of local invasiveness, and number of tumors present all affect prognosis.

Sarcoids can be easy to treat if they are detected early. Simple examination of your horses skin during grooming can be extremely beneficial in picking up an abnormality. If you are uncertain about the presence of a lesion, make sure to point it out during your next vet visit so that treatment can be begun as soon as possible if necessary.

### **NEWS TO KNOW**

#### **Client Referral**

We believe that our clients are our best advertising and want to reward you! We have implemented a Client Referral Reward Program in which \$25 is credited to your account for a new client referral appointment.

#### **Fecal Floatation VS Fecal Egg Counts**

We will no longer be offering fecal floatation for equine clients as the float does not provide a quantitative assessment of the current parasite load or resistance to anthelmintics. Visiting Vet recommends a fecal egg count at least 60 days post de-worming and usually in winter or early spring to develop and individualized de-worming program customized for each horse depending on the number of eggs within the feces.

## Fleas

Fleas are still a problem even though we have already had a hard frost! The flea eggs are still hatching in our warm homes! Visiting Vet is now recommending two products for control of fleas on your pet. *Comfortis* is a pill given once a month. *Comfortis* only kills fleas and is available only for dogs. It must be given with a meal as the most common side effect is vomiting..

The topical product is *Vectra 3D*. *Vectra* can be utilized on dogs and cats. This product is labeled for dogs must not be used on cats as it can be very toxic to cats. There is a special *Vectra 3D* for cats only. *Vectra* will control both fleas, ticks and mosquitoes for 30 days.

## DO YOU HAVE A NEW PUPPY?

The Visiting Vet has started a seminar for families that have a new puppy. Every 2 months we are providing an hour long lecture on the requirements and some basic behavior training. The puppies are invited to come for some socialization! The puppy parties are very informative and lots of fun. Call our office for the next puppy lecture date.

## IS YOUR CAT DRINKING MORE WATER? IS THE LITTER BOX SOAKING WET?

Did you know that geriatric felines of ten years show increased drinking and urination as one of the first signs of many diseases. Kidney failure, Diabetes, and hyper-thyroidism often manifest themselves with excessive drinking of water (polydypsia) and excessive urination (polyuria). If you notice a change in water consumption, please bring your feline friend into Visiting Vet for an exam and bloodwork. Early detection of these diseases can dramatically extend the life expectancy of our felines.



- A reminder that a Health Certificate and current Coggins is required if your horse is traveling out-of-state. Several show grounds may also require a Health Certificate, which is good for 30 days from the date of issue. We recommend you contact our office at least 10 days prior to traveling so that we can verify your Coggins expiration date, check state guidelines (some states require us to obtain a Permit Number), etc. You will be asked to provide destination information ó (name of place, complete street, city, state and zip) as this is required on the Health Certificate.
- **Emergency paging system:** A veterinarian is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in case of an emergency. The Visiting Vet has now contracted an answering service that will answer all emergency calls after hours. If you do not have an emergency, you may still leave a message for the office staff that will be retrieved on the next business day.

## **Note from Jeni:**

Dr. Gaffney is providing small animal emergency services to Animal Clinic Northview every Monday night! The clinic is well-known for their interest in canine reproduction and infertility. Dr. Gaffney is performing many Cesarean Sections!

### **Special points of interest:**

*Texting Tips for Horsepeople*

*LWW lesson went well*

*MIHA mare's in heat again!*

*UD unplanned dismount*

*BBM bastard just bit me*

*SLH smell like horse*

*GVBF got vet bill-fainted*

*Visiting Vet has recently purchased a new digital ultrasound! Our new Micromaxx ultrasound provides higher quality imaging and picture resolution for optimum imaging of structures allowing for the most accurate diagnosis.*

*Visiting Vet has also recently acquired a new TonoVet tonometer that is used to obtain intraocular pressures in all species. This tool can be useful in identifying early stages of glaucoma in your dog, cat, or horse. We encourage you to inquire about early glaucoma screening in your dog of greater than 8 years of age as part of a routine geriatric exam.*