

Fall Vaccines

As we venture from summer to fall it is time again to inoculate against contagious diseases!

If you are up to date on your Spring Vaccines your horse needs fewer vaccines than a few months ago.

If Spring flew by too quickly (like it did for many of us) and your horse missed his/her spring vaccines; lets catch up!

Call or email today and we can discuss what is recommended to keep your horse(s) healthy this season!

DISCOUNTS apply for vaccine clinics of 10 or more horses, call and schedule today: 916-997-8444

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Capitol Equine Veterinary Services

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Dear Horse Owner,

The last six months have been a whirlwind. I started my own practice and have truly enjoyed every moment of the experience. I have greatly enjoyed the bonds I am beginning to form between my clients and our patients. The support I have received from my husband, family, close friends and clients has been amazing.

As we turn the corner from Spring into Fall, we're faced with new challenges to keep our horse friends healthy. Hopefully you find this newsletter enlightening and helpful to get you through the next few months!

Dr. Bartholomew

Colic PreventiCare Program

Do you want help with the costs of colic surgery? Capitol Equine encourages all of its clients to consider this program!

Benefits:

- \$5,000 to help cover surgical colic!
- Any surgery center (of your choice) can perform the necessary surgery and Pfizer Animal Health will reimburse them for up to \$5,000 in costs associated with colic surgery and up to three days of aftercare!

Requirements:

- Annual physical examination
- Annual dental examination and any needed care
- Appropriate immunizations
- Daily use of Strongid® C or Strongid® C 2X™
- Twice-yearly use of Equimax™ or Equell®

Annual Enrollment fee of \$50 per horse.

For more information on Colic, watch the slideshow at:
<http://www.capitolequine.com/cecliented.html>



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Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis: Pigeon Fever

For those of us in the Wilton and surrounding areas, Corynebacterium has been a hot topic! Corynebacterium infection is one of the most common and economically important infectious diseases of horses in the western US and California in particular. I hope this article helps address some common questions and concerns regarding this disease!

What is Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis?

Most people know the disease by its lay name 'Pigeon Fever' which comes from its propensity to cause fevers coupled with abscess in the pectoral region ('pigeon breast' region). The disease is caused by a bacterial infection of Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis. Several forms of Corynebacterium infection exist including: 1) External Abscesses, 2) Internal Abscesses, and 3) Ulcerative Lymphangitis. External abscesses typically account for greater than 90% of the disease, with internal abscesses and ulcerative lymphangitis together accounting for less than 10%. External abscesses occur most commonly in the pectoral or abdominal regions; however abscesses of sheath, groin, neck, poll and several other locations can occur. The internal form of Coryne can occur with or without external abscesses and frequently infects the liver, lung, kidney, and spleen. Ulcerative lymphangitis is the least common form of Coryne and is exhibited by limb swelling, serous drainage, and ulcerative lesions on the lower limbs.

How is it transmitted?

Typically Coryne is seasonal, peaking in incidence during the late summer and fall; however, this year I began seeing cases mid to early spring—markedly earlier than typical. The seasonal incidence is linked to how the bacteria are thought to be transmitted. Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis is thought to be transmitted by Habronema and stable flies, and/or through contact with contaminated tack, grooming equipment, or IM injections. It is believed that moist conditions coupled with biting flies enhance the spread of the disease. Due to this belief, prevention of the disease focuses on good hygiene and strict fly control. However, even under the most hygienic conditions, this disease manages to prevail.

How is it Diagnosed?

Often diagnosis of external Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis and ulcerative lymphangitis is presumptive, meaning it is assumed to be based on location of the swelling or edema, the time of the year, and prevalence of the disease in the area. A culture can be performed to confirm the diagnosis and correct treatment. In some cases, an ultrasound exam of a swollen region can confirm the presence of an abscess deep in the tissue which can then be cultured with ultrasound guidance.

Internal infection is suspect in horses that exhibit systemic illness of unknown cause. Vague symptoms include fever, anorexia, and weight loss. Diagnosis of internal Coryne begins with blood work: complete blood count, fibrinogen, and chemistry. Often blood work in horses with internal Coryne is similar to those with the external form, exhibiting elevated white blood cell counts, globulins, and fibrinogen. Occasionally, the chemistry values of a horse with internal Coryne have liver or kidney value abnormalities. The most helpful blood work value is often an elevated titer levels for Corynebacterium. Definitive diagnosis of internal Coryne is confirmed by the presence of abscesses on abdominal ultrasound.

What is the treatment and prognosis?

Treatment of external abscesses and ulcerative lymphangitis typically begin with poultices, hot packing and/or hydrotherapy. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatories (such as bute or banamine) are used to reduce fever and/or lameness. Once an abscess matures, drainage may be encouraged with surgical lancing followed by flushing with a betadine solution. Antibiotics are often prescribed in external Coryne once the abscess has begun to drain. Early use of antibiotics are thought to lengthen time for the abscesses to mature. In internal Coryne and ulcerative lymphangitis, antibiotics are always indicated.

Prognosis for external abscesses is typically very good. Both ulcerative lymphangitis and internal abscesses carry a more guarded prognosis and are often fatal if left untreated. Lastly, pregnant mares who contract Corynebacterium can abort their fetuses and should be monitored regularly to ensure viability of the fetus.

What can be done to prevent Coryne?

Because the bacteria are thought to be transmitted by flies, decreasing the number of flies through sprays, ointments, fans, and regular manure removal can be helpful. In addition, isolating those with the disease and disposing of contaminated materials used to clean infected animals is advised. Unfortunately, the bacteria are known to exist in the environment for many years and is considered endemic in this region.



Some Traveling Tips!

Whether you are showing on the A circuit, traveling to local schooling shows, or packing into the back country here are some tips to keep your horses happy and healthy!

- 1) **Stay up to date on Flu/Rhino and Strangles Vaccinations** (stress and increased exposure during travel enhances the likelihood of contracting these diseases)
- 2) **Don't share!** (Bring your own buckets and water if possible)
- 3) **Xylexis--** (This immune stimulator drug is helpful when given prior to a stressful event)
- 4) **Keep 'em hydrated!** (If you are planning a big change in your horses' day, encourage them to drink with some electrolytes and/or a bran mash at the end of the day.)

**10% off the ranch call on
your next appointment
when you mention this newsletter....**