



Spring 2011

Sawtooth Equine Service

Phone: (208) 788-1465

www.sawtoothequine.com

An Ounce of Prevention Is Worth a Pound of Cure...

In these tight financial times, we are all looking for ways to save. However, good maintenance measures are essential in preventing more serious problems down the road. Annual vaccinations, deworming and dental care

are key to your horse's health. Vaccinations prevent life threatening or debilitating disease. Deworming protects your horse from internal parasites that rob your horse of energy and nutrition. Good dental care is essential to

performance and feed efficiency. Each time our vets vaccinate or de-worm your horse, we also perform a brief exam to evaluate oral health and overall wellness. Call today to schedule your spring check-up!

Our Veterinarians:

- Steve Edsall DVM
- George Martin DVM DACVS
- Erin Crawford DVM

Our doctors are available for in house and farm call appointments. The emergency service is always available after hours.

Special Coggins and Early Detection Package

Is now being offered. In association with Antech Labs, we are pleased to offer a special wellness package for your horse. The package includes: Standard Coggins test, Complete Blood Count, Chemistry, Fibrinogen and Fecal. These are excellent screening tools to detect anemia, early liver or kidney disease, infection and parasite infestation. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain baseline information on your horse. **These tests normally cost \$175 but will be offered for \$90 (an \$85 savings)** This is a great opportunity to get your Coggins for the upcoming show season as well. Office call not included.

Waging War On Equine Parasites

Internal parasites are silent killers. They can cause extensive internal damage, and you may not even realize your horses are heavily infected. At the very least, parasites can lower resistance, rob the horse of valuable nutrients, and cause gastrointestinal irritation and unthriftiness. At their worst, they can lead to colic, intestinal ruptures, and death.

Using de-worming agents on a regular schedule in combination with good management procedures is critical to relieving your horse of most parasites. Since

parasites are primarily transferred through manure, good management is key. In terms of management priorities, establishing a parasite control program is probably second only to supplying the horse with clean, plentiful water and high quality feed.

To get rid of parasites before they attack your horse, follow these suggestions from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP):

Pick up and dispose of manure droppings in the pasture at least twice weekly.

Mow and harrow pastures regularly to break up manure piles and expose parasite eggs and larvae to the elements.

Rotate pastures by allowing other livestock, such as sheep or cattle, to graze them, thereby interrupting the life cycles of parasites.

Group horses by age to reduce exposure to certain parasites and maximize the de-worming program geared to that group.

Keep the number of horses per acre to a

Think Spring!

Hours of Operation:

- Monday – Friday
8am - 5:30pm
- Saturday mornings by appointment
- We are closed for lunch from
12pm-1pm
- The emergency service is always
available after hours and over lunch.



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Rabies vaccination is recommended as a core vaccine by the American Association of the Equine Practitioners.

Is your horse vaccinated?

Call today for an appointment

Parasites continues

(con't) minimum to reduce overgrazing and reduce fecal contamination per acre.

Remove bot eggs quickly and regularly from the horse's haircoat to prevent ingestion.

Rotate deworming agents, not just brand names, to prevent chemical resistance.

Consult your veterinarian to set up an effective and regular deworming schedule.

With the many safe, convenient prod-

ucts available today, establishing an effective deworming program is easy. Discuss a plan with your veterinarian and implement it without delay. A good parasite control program will go a long way toward maximizing your horse's appearance, performance and comfort. The net result will be an animal that is as healthy on the inside as it appears on the outside. A full vaccination and deworming protocol is available on our website at www.sawtoothequine.com

Equine obesity and weight loss

When implementing a weight loss program for the overweight horse, it's important to do it gradually and under the supervision of an equine veterinarian. Follow these guidelines from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) to get you started:

1. Be patient. Weight reduction should be a slow, steady process so not to stress the horse or create metabolic upsets.
2. Make changes in both the type and amount of feed gradually. Reduce rations by no more than 10% over a 7- to 10-day period.
3. Track your horse's progress by using a weight tape. When the horse's weight plateaus, gradually cut back its ration again.
4. Step up the horse's exercise regimen. Gradually build time and intensity as the horse's fitness improves.
5. Provide plenty of clean, fresh water so the horse's digestive and other systems function as efficiently as possible and rid the body of metabolic and other wastes.
6. Select feeds that provide plenty of high quality fiber but are low in total energy. Measure feeds by weight rather than by volume to determine appropriate rations.
7. Select feeds that are lower in fat since fat is an energy-dense nutrient source.
8. Switch or reduce the amount of alfalfa hay feed. Replace with a mature grass or oat hay to reduce caloric intake.
9. Feed separate from other horses so the overweight horse doesn't have a chance to eat his portion and his neighbor's too. In extreme cases of obesity, caloric intake may also need to be controlled by limiting pasture intake.
10. Balance the horse's diet based on age and activity level. Make sure the horse's vitamin, mineral and protein requirements continue to be met.

Once your horse has reached its ideal body condition, maintaining the proper weight is a gentle balancing act. You will probably need to readjust your horse's ration to stabilize its weight. Exercise will continue to be a key component in keeping the horse fit. Because obesity can affect a horse's health, communicate regularly with your veterinarian.

Does your horse need its teeth floated???

Despite the common misconception that "because wild horses don't need their teeth floated, domestic horses don't need their teeth floated", our equine companions do require routine dental care. Because of the way we manage our horses, what we feed them and how we care for them, domestic horses are living much longer than their wild counterparts. To ensure their comfort, longevity and optimal performance, annual dental exams and floating as needed are required.

Sawtooth Equine provides routine and advanced dentistry to our patients as well as advanced diagnostic capabilities (digital skull and dental x-rays). We can also perform oral surgeries if required. Depending on your facility and the temperament of the horse, routine care can often be provided on the farm.

Call today for an appointment.

