



Newman Equine Newsletter

how to contact us.... Phone (321) 639 4242 Fax (321) 638 8863

Website www.newmanequine.com

March 2009

Keeping you in touch with your horse

Lameness Exam. Part 2. by Mari Good DVM. Diagnostics and Imaging

= **Diagnostic** procedures are often necessary to isolate the specific location and cause of lameness.

These tests include:

- **Diagnostic** nerve or joint blocks. these analgesic techniques are perhaps the most important techniques used to identify the location of lameness. Working systematically, we temporarily deaden sensation to specific segments of the limb, one region or joint at a time until lameness disappears or diminishes. This procedure isolates the area of pain causing the lameness.

Blocks can also help to determine whether the condition is treatable.

- **Radiographs.** These are useful for identifying damage or changes to bony tissue. An experienced and knowledgeable veterinarian should interpret them because not all changes are cause for concern. Radiographs provide limited information about soft tissue such as tendons, ligaments or structures inside the joint which are often the source of lameness. At Newman Equine we are fortunate to own the **Elkin Mark 3 digital x-ray** which is the latest model from the industry leader in mobile equine radiology. It allows us to provide superior quality instant "stall side" x-rays enabling you to see and discuss your horse's x-rays with us immediately. It also allows e-mailing of the images to other veterinarians

for second opinions or referral.

X-rays produced using digital technology are also of higher quality than traditional x-rays enabling us to detect more subtle problems than previously possible.

- **Ultrasound.** This non-invasive procedure uses ultrasonic waves to image internal structures and is particularly helpful for soft tissue. We have recently purchased the **Sonosite Titan** a digital ultrasound which allows us to obtain higher quality images than ever before. This machine has the ability to do reproductive, Thoracic, Abdominal and cardiac scans.

- **Nuclear Scanning.** Radioisotopes injected intravenously into the horse are concentrated in areas of injury, these areas are scanned with a gamma camera and areas of trouble show increased uptake of the radioisotope.

- **Arthroscopy.** This surgical procedure allows visual examination of the inside of a joint or tendon sheath, it requires general anesthesia but may be the only way to define the damage. Some diagnoses can only be made with arthroscopy, if deemed necessary surgical treatment is often performed at the same time.

- **Examination of Blood, Synovial fluid and tissue samples.** These samples can be examined for infection or inflammation. Such exams usually require laboratory testing.

- **M.R.I.** Images are created by large magnets that spin around a body part, for this reason only body parts that can fit inside the tube (head and legs) can be imaged by this technique.

- **CT.** This technique has similar uses and limitations as an M.R.I.

- **Thermography.** This technique measures skin temperature and also reflects alterations in circulation of deeper tissues.

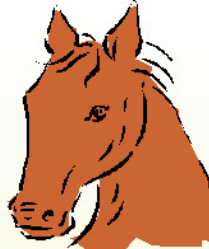
In conclusion. lameness is a complicated condition with many possible causes. Be a conscientious observer. If you suspect a problem, discontinue riding your horse and seek our advice promptly. By identifying even minor lameness and acting swiftly to correct it you will minimize the risk of injury to the horse and yourself. You will be rewarded by better performance and longer useful life from your horse.



Here it is.....

Breeding Season

Once again



Great News Department

CARECREDIT

Has come to town

In light of the current economical situation we have acquired the services of Carecredit. This is for our clients who would like to have another option available to them when it comes to looking after their horse(s).

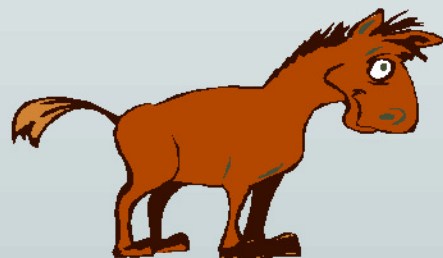
Carecredit has enough flexible payment plans to cater to all your financial situations, they range from 3 months to 60 month terms, no interest for up to 18 months, a low 13.9% up to 60 months.

For more info contact :-

the office 321 639 4242 .

Care credit at 1-800-365-8295

or go online to apply, it only takes 5 minutes at... www.carecredit.com



HEALTH CARE PLANS

Another great Idea to cut the cost of ownership is to invest in our very popular health care plan. For the sum of \$335.00 you get a years worth of vaccinations as follows:-

- 4 Influenza/rhinopneumonitis.
- 2 eastern & western Encephalitis
- 1 west nile
- 1 rabies
- 1 potomac horse fever

Deworming at each visit.

Coggins test

Dental can be added at any time for \$130.00

More reasons to purchase the healthcare plan.....

No emergency fees for horses on the plan
4 consults per year with each visit

Call the office for more info...

321 639 4242



When was the last time you had your horse's teeth looked at???

Why not have one of the best dental techs in the business give your horse the once over.

Sheryl Sawyer-Colman EqDT has been practicing equine dentistry for four years and has been an equine tech for 13yrs. We have the latest equipment and techniques to make sure your horse's teeth will be problem free.

Call the office for an appointment

At 321 639 4242

Bad News Department

At Newman Equine we understand what is happening in the economy and around the local area, we are feeling the effects just like everyone else (We went to Washington for a bailout, but they threw us out)

Whilst we are trying to do our part by not passing on price increases when gasoline, pharmaceutical, insurance etc go up, we cannot keep this up forever.

With that in mind we just wanted to reiterate our policy on paying for services.

It has always been the policy of this practice to receive payment when services are rendered

(unless prior arrangements have been made with the office)

So help your friendly vets by remembering to pay for services when completed, then we can all come through this together.

Thank you so much for being part of the Newman Equine family.



KING RICHARD III SOON AFTER HIS LINE, "A HORSE! A HORSE! MY KINGDOM FOR A HORSE!"

What to Expect when You're Expecting

Kim Moherman, DVM

Foaling season is here again, and whether you're a seasoned veteran at foaling or are getting ready for your first foal, it's never too early to get ready for your new arrival. The following overview will help you prepare your farm and mare for foaling and let you know what to expect when the big day arrives.

Before the foal arrives:

1. **Prepare your mare:** Be sure that your mare has been properly vaccinated to ensure that she will pass on maternal antibodies to the foal. Pneumobort K should be given at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation (the average gestation of a foal is 11 months). Also, your mare should receive boosters of all of her vaccines by 10 months of gestation. If your mare needs any of these vaccinations, call the clinic to schedule an appointment with one of our veterinarians.

2. Gather supplies:

Be sure to have the following items on hand: the clinic's phone number (321-639-4242), iodine tincture, clean towels, a digital thermometer, 30 cc and 60 cc syringes, clean scissors, a suction bulb, and a plastic bucket. Keeping these items on hand and easily accessible in one place will help you if one of our veterinarians ask you to perform certain tasks or comes out to your farm assist with the foaling.

3. **Prepare a foaling stall:** Foaling stalls should be at least 12 feet x 12 feet in size. The stall should be bedded with plenty of clean straw or shavings. Cleanliness is key! Keep everything as clean as possible in order to keep your new foal healthy once it arrives.

Changes to expect in your mare:

1. **Udder enlargement:** The mare's udder enlarges 4 to 6 weeks prior to delivery. The udder becomes more rounded as it enlarges. Edema (swelling) that you can indent with your finger will occur in the udder and right in front of the udder 2 to 3 weeks before delivery.

1. "Waxing" of teats:

The sebaceous glands around the teat opening secrete a waxy substance that beads up at the end of the teat as foaling nears. This can occur up to 4 weeks before delivery; however, it usually happens about 2 weeks before delivery. Each mare differs, and not all mares will show this.

2. **Filling of teats:** The mare's teats fill and distend usually 2 to 14 days before delivery. The ends remain flattened until right before delivery.

When your mare foals:

Despite your careful monitoring, your mare may go into labor when you aren't at the barn. In fact, most mares foal between 11 PM and 4 AM. You may wake up in the morning to find your new foal on your mare's side. If you are present for your mare's foaling, it's important to remember these things:

1. **Remain quiet:** Mares should be observed during foaling, but left undisturbed unless problems arise. Any disturbances can interrupt and delay foaling and result in complications.

2. **Mares foal quickly:** The normal amount of time between when a mare's water breaks and the foal is on the ground is 20-60 minutes. During this time, if labor does not appear to be progressing, immediately call the clinic at 639-4242 so that our veterinarian on call can assist you and your mare.

After your mare foals:

1. Make sure your foal nurses:

After the mare has had time to rest and recover, it is important to make sure that your foal is nursing from the mare. Immediately after foaling, the mare will have antibody-rich colostrum that the foal needs to nurse from the mare within a couple of hours after birth. Failure of the foal to nurse and receive this colostrum may result in an immune-compromised foal.

2. Save the placenta:

The placenta is the membrane that surrounded the foal during gestation and supplied the foal with nutrients. The placenta should be passed from the mare 3-6 hours after foaling. Do not tug on the placenta if it is hanging from the mare. Once it has passed, place the placenta in a bucket of water and place it in an area out of the sun and away from any other animals. One of our veterinarians will examine the placenta at your new foal exam.

3. Watch for meconium:

Meconium is the foal's first bowel movement, and is grayish white in color. Failure to pass the meconium can result in colic in your new foal. One of our veterinarians will ask you whether the meconium has passed at your new foal exam.

4. Dip the umbilicus:

Dip the foal's umbilical stump in Nolvasan. This will help to dry out the stump of the umbilical cord and help keep bacteria from traveling from the outside world into the foal's body.

5. Call the office: (321) 639 4242

The next morning, call the office in order to schedule a new foal exam. One of our veterinarians will come to your farm to examine the foal and the mare to make sure that they are both healthy.

6. Keep a clean stall:

Cleanliness is key! The cleaner you keep the stall, the less likely you are to have bacterial transmitted from the outside world to your foal.

Having a new foal on the farm is a great experience. With a little bit of preparation and knowledge of what to expect, the experience can be a lot less daunting and more enjoyable!



**Can't find the right gift for that
special horse lover????
How about a *Gift Certificate* from
Newman Equine?
Available in amounts from \$10 to
"whatever you want"
Call the office and we will put it in
the mail for you.
321 639 4242**

LOOKING FOR A STUD??

**Why not consider
"Playguns Travelena"
2008 ARHA high point horse.
Owned by Dr Newman
and shown by Brandon Sutton.
Call the office for more details.
(321) 639 4242**

Reminder

**We need 24 hrs notice to fill a prescriptions.
This will allow the receptionist time to contact
the Doctor for approval, have your order filled
by the Vet tech and be ready for you to pick up
Thanks for helping out with this matter**

New Office Hours

**We have changed our office hours
to close at 6pm
instead of 7pm Mon thru Fri**

Breeding Continued.....

Ovulation is best determined by daily rectal exams or ultrasounds of the ovary. Once the mare is in heat, she needs to be transported to our clinic, for the daily examination. When we believe it to be just prior to ovulation, our office will call the stallion owner and make arrangements for semen to be delivered. After insemination, your mare can go home and "incubate" for approximately 16-18 days. After the incubation period, we will conduct a follow-up visit, which will include an ultrasound for the diagnosis of pregnancy.

2.Frozen Semen- This tends to be a less popular choice due to the increased management issues. In this process, frozen semen has been coated in an "antifreeze-like" chemical and frozen in liquid nitrogen. As long as it is frozen its viability is virtually forever. However, freezing is a harsh process so once the semen thaws, it is only capable of causing fertilization for approximately three hours. Therefore, we must breed your mare within 3 hours of ovulation. Once your mare is in heat, she must come to our clinic, where a rectal exam or ultrasound is performed every 3 hours, around the clock, until ovulation occurs. Once your mare ovulates, she is inseminated. Once again, a follow-up exam, to determine pregnancy, will occur approximately 16-18 days later. As you might expect, this process will require a veterinarian to examine your mare for breeding around the clock, which will increase your expense.

If you have any questions or require additional clarification concerning you, or your mare's specific needs, please feel free to contact the office. (321) 639 4242.

We at Newman Equine wish you the best of luck during the 2009 breeding season.