



63 Henning Road
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

(518) 583-7273

Summer 2009 Newsletter
www.saratogaequine.com

Changing Faces at Saratoga Equine



Dr. Javernick

Saratoga Equine Veterinary Service is pleased to introduce two new doctors on staff this summer.

Julie Cornell, DVM, will be with us for the year to complete her medical internship. Dr. Cornell graduated from Kansas State University College of Veterinary Medicine this spring. Her interests lie in equine reproduction and dentistry. During the summer, Dr. Cornell's primary clinical responsibilities will focus on hospital cases, and in the fall, winter and spring, you can expect to see Dr. Cornell on the road taking on more ambulatory and emergency cases.

Dr. Cornell's interest in horses began as a child growing up in Vermont, where her family ran a "dude ranch." When she is not at 63 Henning Road, Dr. Cornell can be found spending time with her family in Bennington, Vermont, where she enjoys trail riding and taking care of her three horses. **Welcome to Saratoga Equine, Dr. Cornell!**



Dr. Cornell

Lauren Javernick, DVM, is a Colorado State University School of Veterinary Medicine graduate whose clinical interests lie in emergency work and reproductive medicine. Dr. Javernick comes to us from Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington, Kentucky, where she specializes in field care medicine. Dr. Javernick grew up in Cañon City, Colorado. She has been living in Lexington for the past few years while completing an ambulatory medicine internship at Hagyard. She also works in New Zealand during the five-month breeding season. **We're so glad you're here, Dr. Javernick!**

Goodbye, Dr. Mary McDowell! Thank you for your good work here as an intern at Saratoga Equine Veterinary Service, and good luck in the future.

Who Else is at SEVS this Summer?

Throughout the summer months at SEVS, many veterinary students participate in two week-long externships. SEVS has had the good fortune to have worked with veterinary students from **Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, Louisiana State University, and Auburn School of Veterinary Medicine**. We thank them for all of their dedication and hard work, and wish them good luck as they work toward completing their final years of veterinary school. We look forward to working with more externs this summer, from the **University of Tennessee College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, and Texas A&M University**.

We are excited about our changes at SEVS, and feel stronger than ever in our commitment to our equine patients and their owners to provide excellent 24-hour emergency care, as well as solid preventative medical care and surgery.

Client Education Day at Saratoga Equine Veterinary Hospital

SEPTEMBER 19, 2009

10 A.M.

Save the date! Saratoga Equine Veterinary Service invites you to spend the morning with us for a series of educational talks and workshops about preventative and basic health care for you equine friends. Sessions include information about plants poisonous to horses, lameness issues, and a general physical exam workshop so that you can perform TPRs (take your horse's temperature, pulse and respiration rate) yourself. This will be a fun and informative morning, a great time to connect with your equine veterinarians and enjoy refreshments and valuable information that will help to keep your horses safe and healthy. Any questions? Please call us at 518-583-7273.

Emergency Response Seminar at Saratoga Equine Veterinary Service

When local police, firefighters and emergency medical personnel showed up at Saratoga Equine Veterinary Hospital on a breezy morning early this spring, we were ready and eager to lend them a helping hand.

Some 15 emergency responders spent the morning at SEVS learning basic horse handling techniques, a useful skill in the event of a barn fire, trailer accident, or other emergencies involving horses. The event marked the first of many in a series of workshops between first responders and SEVS. Many of the first responders that attended our seminar had no prior experience with horses, and by the end of the day, they were able to halter and lead horses out of our barn safely. Dr. Barnes led the seminar with a discussion on general horse safety, and an informative session on ways to aid a horse in different kinds of emergency situations. A demonstration was also given on how to successfully blindfold a horse in an emergency.

We think the day was a huge success, and we thank our veterinarians, technicians and staff for their dedication to this meaningful and ongoing event. We also thank the firefighters, fire safety officers, police officers and EMTs, for spending their morning with us, and of course, for the good work that they do to keep our community safe.

Saratoga Equine Veterinary Service looks forward to hosting our next Emergency Response Seminar and continuing to educate our first responders in emergency preparedness.



Changes in PreventiCare

Pfizer recently instituted some changes in its widely used PreventiCare program. Some of these changes may impact you. Please read the following so that we are able to maintain your records carefully should you need the benefits of the program.

- ✓ Client login information for their new website, www.equinepreventicare.com
- ✓ Horse owners now have the ability to input physical and dental exam dates, deworming dates, and vaccine dates in their horse's profile on the PreventiCare website.
- ✓ \$50.00 enrollment/re-enrollment fee. This fee, initiated and received by Pfizer, must be paid before SEVS can proceed with the enrollment/re-enrollment process for each horse.

If you have not already logged onto www.equinepreventicare.com, please do so to become familiar with the new format. If you do not have your login information, please email PreventiCare directly at www.preventicare@pfizer.com to request it. If you have any questions regarding the program, or are interested in enrolling a new horse, please feel free to call our office and we will be happy to assist you! We still firmly believe that the program is very beneficial, and encourage our clients to participate.



Saratoga Equine's 2nd Annual Fall Horse Show

On Saturday, October 3, 2009, SEVS will hold its second annual fall horse show at 63 Henning Road, beginning promptly at 9:00 a.m. This show is for beginner junior riders. Once again, the show will offer halter, equitation, pleasure and trail classes for riders up to 18 years of age. The proceeds of this show will go to the **Double H Ranch**. The goal of our show is to offer a venue for young riders to gain a positive and meaningful experience, and to visit the horse hospital with a healthy horse! Please visit our website for the registration form, or call our office at 518-583-7273 and we will be happy to mail it to you.



Make Us Your First Choice!

We are here for all of your veterinary needs, be it medical or surgical, fully staffed and prepared for you. Please remember that as a horse owner, you have a choice when it comes to referring your horse to a surgeon or for hospitalization. We are right around the corner, and serve as a referral center for Saratoga, and for the Upstate and New England area. Going into our 10th year in Saratoga Springs, SEVS is proud to serve you with the highest quality of equine veterinary care. There's no need to trailer your horse any further than necessary for an elective or emergency surgical procedure. As the owner, you have the privilege and responsibility to make the right decision about where to have your horse treated. Thank you for making us your full service veterinary hospital!

Toxic Plants

By Dr. Sandy Tatorynw

As you turn your horse out onto acres of rolling grass, or throw him a flake of fresh smelling hay, have you ever wondered if what is in that pasture or hay is safe to eat? Wild horses naturally eat the more tender and palatable grasses while leaving the weeds alone, but when plants are baled into hay with grasses, horses tend to be less selective, or are unable to separate out less palatable and potentially toxic plants. Also, horses on a dry lot without hay are more at risk of eating toxic plants due to hunger or boredom. The horse owner should be aware of the specific plants that tend to cause toxicity in this area, in case of accidental ingestion by their horse.

Red Clover



Red Clover can be infected with a mycotoxin (secondary fungal metabolites which cause lesions in animals but do not harm plants). It produces a substance called Slaframine, which stimulates the endocrine glands of the horse. This causes excess salivation, some tearing of the eyes, and sometimes frequent urination or diarrhea. The signs can occur as soon as 30-60 minutes after ingestion. Once the infected Red Clover is removed, symptoms usually resolve in about three days.

Tall Fescue (Festuca arundinarea)



Tall Fescue is a coarse perennial grass, deeply rooted in vigorous clumps, that reaches 3-4 feet high. Sixty-two percent of Tall Fescue is infected with an endophytic (inside the grass) fungus called *Neotyphodium coenophialum*. The fungus can cause reproduction and lactation problems in horses, such as a prolonged gestation, thick placenta, and decreased milk production. Removing mares from pastures with the infected plant and giving them medication called Equidone® (domperidone) can prevent problems associated with Tall Fescue.

Black Walnut (Juglan nigra)

If using bedding with 5-20% Black Walnut shavings in it, laminitis can occur. A toxin present in varying amounts in the wood fibers reduces blood flow to the feet. Reactions can occur as soon as 12-24 hours after exposure. Signs include a laminitic stance, reluctance to move, warm feet, and increased digital pulses. Treatment follows the typical laminitis protocol, as well as removing the shavings and washing the horse's legs with mild soap. Black Walnut shavings may be hard to recognize depending on the amount present, however, the wood is heavy, coursed grain, and dark brown.

Red Maple (Acer rubrum)



Red Maple causes hemolytic anemia (which means it damages red blood cells and causes them to burst). The wilted or dried leaves are especially toxic. Signs of Red Maple toxicity are depression, yellow or blue gums, anemia, and brown discoloration of blood or urine. Treatment involves blood transfusions, IV fluids, and supportive care.

Senecio (Ragwort and Groundsel)



Senecio poisoning usually occurs when the plants are mixed in the hay. Signs of ingestion may not appear until 2-8 months later. Signs include decreased conditioning, yellow gums, yawning, drowsiness, staggering, and head pressing, which can result in death in one week.

Selenium

Selenium is a mineral found in varying amounts in the soil. The soil in the Northeast tends to be deficient. Due to the deficiency, horses are often given a supplement which can cause the level of Selenium to be too high. Signs of chronic Selenium toxicity are decreased vitality, anemia, stiffness/lameness, rough haircoat, hair loss of the mane and tail, and hoof deformities. Signs of acute toxicity are teeth grinding, anorexia, fever, incoordination, and death. 3.3mg/kg of

oral Selenium is a lethal dose. Chronic toxicity can occur from grazing for weeks to months on soils with 5-40 ppm of Selenium.

Bracken Fern (Pteridium aquilinum)



Unlike most toxic plants, the leaves of the Bracken Fern are palatable. The toxin causes neurological signs after the horse has grazed on pasture or eaten hay with 20% Bracken. Horses usually need to consume it for 1-2 months before clinical signs appear. Signs are lethargy, emaciation, staggers, tremors, and death in 2-10 days without treatment. Treatment involves a Thiamine supplement because the toxin in Bracken Fern destroys Thiamine in the digestive track before it can be absorbed. This leads to nervous system damage.

White Snakeroot (Eupatorium regosum)



This plant grows primarily in wooded and semi-shaded areas. The toxin, if ingested by mares, can infect foals through the milk of their mother. Signs are those of congestive heart failure, which can occur 2-3 days after ingestion. The horse may stand with its legs apart, have swelling of the neck, sweating, tremors, and appear to be in distress with an elevated heart rate. Activated Charcoal can be used to absorb some of the toxin. If the horse recovers, he may be left with a severely scarred heart, and may not be fit for riding.

Milkweeds (Asclepias) and Foxglove (Digitalis)



Ingestion of either of these plants usually leads to the horse being found dead. If they are found alive, they are usually down with weakness and convulsions. Foxglove affects the heart while Milkweeds affect the nervous system and the heart. Luckily, these plants are not palatable and, therefore, are rarely eaten by a horse.

Hoary Alyssum (Berteroa incana)



Ingestion of this plant usually leads to limb swelling (stocking up). It can also cause Laminitis and a fever. Signs will resolve in 4-5 days by removing the source. However, if Laminitis is caused, more permanent damage will be present.

For all poisonous plant ingestion: treatment is mainly supportive, and if it is not a deadly plant, the animal will recover if the plant is removed. You should call your veterinarian immediately if you suspect that your horse has ingested a poisonous plant because there may be treatments that will need to be given right away. Keeping pastures rotated, and removing weeds are good preventative measures that horse owners can take to prevent ingestion of poisonous plants. As long as horses have good hay or grass to eat, it is unlikely that they will eat toxic plants. Horses will only eat toxic plants as a last resort.

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