



Covered Bridge Equine

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February 2012 Newsletter

New Medications Available for Horses

Prascend (Equine Pergolide) is the first licensed medication used for the treatment of clinical signs associated with Equine Cushing's Disease. It acts by helping to bring cortisol concentrations in the bloodstream back to normal levels. It can take up to 6- 12 weeks to see the full benefit of treatment, as the levels of cortisol in the body become normal again.

Prascend is normally given once daily, and can be mixed with a small volume of molasses or food to ease administration, or the tablet can be dissolved in a small amount of water and administered directly into the mouth. The tablets should not be crushed.

In the past, we have used Pergolide in the compounded form for treatment, since this is the only way it was available. We had very positive results in horses who were treated with compounded Pergolide, however it was in liquid form that needed to be kept refrigerated. As you can imagine this is



Kate has Cushings Disease

not always practical in a barn environment to keep a medication chilled. Prascend is an FDA approved tablet which maintains its strength throughout its shelf life without the need for refrigeration. For more information you can visit www.prascend.com

Please let us know if you have questions about Prascend or if you think this medication is right for your horse with Cushing's Disease.

In this issue

New Medications Available


New Field Equipment

Coming soon:
Chiropractic Adjustments

Memories of Josh

Signs of Cushings Disease

- Haircoats that are heavier and last longer than other horses haircoats.
- Fat pockets on the body commonly seen on the crest of the neck and at the base of the tail.
- Horse will act older than his/her age indicates
- Increased risk of laminitis.

 Save on dentals

In celebration of National Dental Month....Feb. 2012

10% off dentals
50% off farm calls

Mark your calenders to schedule a dental for your horse!

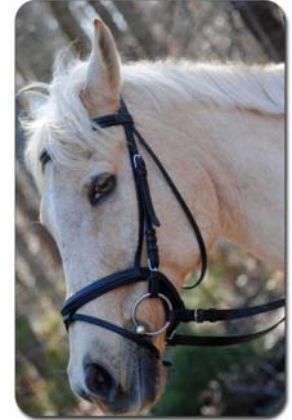
Regular dental care is important for horses. Their teeth grow about 2.5 mm per year and the normal chewing motion creates sharp points, hooks, and ramps that need to be filed.



New Medicine



Pentosan Equine Injection (Sodium Pentosan Polysulfate 250 mg/ml) is a new treatment for arthritis in horses. It is a compounded medication (not FDA approved) that is used as an intramuscular injection in horses. It has been shown to actively reverse the effects of osteoarthritis in the joints of horses. It is an anti-inflammatory, anti-arthritic and chondroprotective agent. Many owners are using it as a supplement for their horse's joint care. Rather than simply masking the pain, Pentosan directly stimulates joint healing and repair. It is given as a loading dose, one injection once a week for 4 treatments, then Pentosan is given at regular intervals as a maintenance treatment.



Let us know if you have questions about Pentosan.



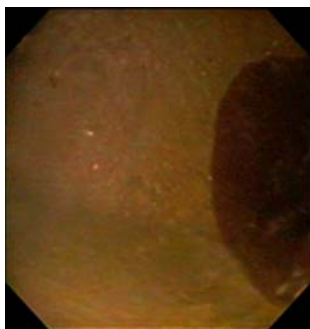
New Field Equipment

We are pleased to announce that we have purchased two new pieces of equipment that can be used in the field. A one meter endoscope can be used for upper airway endoscopy and a 3 meter endoscope for stomach gastroscopy. Please let us know if you have any questions!

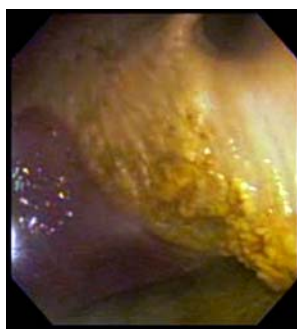


Endoscopy Pictures

Pictures courtesy of UGA College of Veterinary Medicine



Normal stomach



Stomach with ulcers



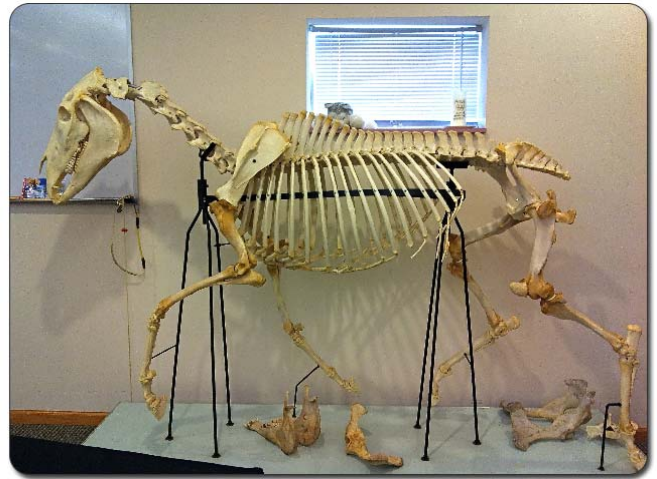
Normal guttural pouch



Upper resp. tract

Coming Soon:

Covered Bridge Equine will soon be offering **Chiropractic Adjustments** for horses and dogs! Dr. Peroni is finishing her course in Kansas in February, and will be offering chiropractic care in March. This is a picture of one of the skeletal models in the classroom at Options for Animals in Kansas. All of those bones are impressive aren't they?



One of My Favorite Memories of Josh

Below is a memory written by one of our beloved clients who lost her sweet horse last week from complications of Cushings disease and laminitis. I asked her if it was ok to share with everyone, because this is such a touching story. This personal experience will warm your hearts!

Back in my skinnier days, Josh and I were riding along the dividing fence between two long narrow pastures in a place way out in the country. We were coming out of a tree shaded area and out along the fence line into the sunny meadow of a natural pasture, slightly up the hill ahead. At an energetic Saddlebred trot, his head held high, and tail high, he was ready to cover territory out in the open spaces. He had his ears up and was looking forward to every bit of the scenic view.

Suddenly, four white tail deer from the left jumped the fence just ahead of us and turned along the fence line to join us at a trot! I thought he'd spook but I decided to trust him and just "suggest" for him to remain calm by lowering and separating my hands, still giving him the reins. And he didn't spook. We trotted together, the four deer with their tails high, heads high, and Josh matched them, maybe I did too. I could-

n't see my tail high but my head sure was, and my heart was soaring. After less than half a minute the four deer turned to the right ahead of us and continued their journey across the pastures. Josh and I slowed and stopped to watch them as they left, white tails flagging, bodies bobbing, jumping the next fence into a third pasture. By now we missed them. It was such a joy to ride with them for those few seconds.

Now I miss Josh. It seems like I had him only a few seconds. Twenty plus years turns into a few seconds so fast it seems. Good bye, dear friend of mine. You were a joy to me. You came out of left field at the age of two and joined my path for this time we had together, and made my heart soar. I'm left remembering the ride with you as I watch you turn another direction and bound over the fence into the next territory. Everybody should have a horse with four white socks and a blaze sometime in their lives, don't you think?
Author anonymous