



## News



Summer 2010



From the desk of Dr. Peroni

Greetings friends! I hope this “end of the summer” newsletter finds all of our clients happy and healthy. We as horse lovers are hoping for an end to the Georgia heat so we can be outside riding again... I have heard there will soon be a break but I won't hold my breath!



If you keep a credit card on file at our office please let us know when you would like it to be charged. Many of you prefer to use the card at every visit and not worry about mailing a check. We are happy to do this and will always mail you a receipt. Others would like their credit cards held on file in case of an emergency but not used for regular work. Our goal is convenience for our clients.

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### DIGITAL COGGINS

If you have a Digital Coggins done on your horse you may find the directions on how to download the certificates on our website [www.coveredbridgeequine.com](http://www.coveredbridgeequine.com)

There is a box at the very bottom of our homepage that gives instructions. If you still have questions you may call us at the office and we'd be happy to help. Remember that you can print the Coggins in color or black and white and each copy is considered an original. This makes it easy for you as horse owners to make multiple copies (one for the trailer, one for home, etc).

The office of CBE has access to your account and so do you, but no one else can get to your Coggins certificates on-line. It is our policy to print off a copy when the results are returned to us and mail it to your boarding facility. However, you are responsible for printing a copy for yourself.



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Dr. Elizabeth Holmes

### Covered Bridge Equine Welcomes Dr. Elizabeth Holmes

We are very excited to introduce our new associate, Dr. Elizabeth Holmes, to you. Dr. Holmes and I met in our acupuncture class at the Chi Institute in Reddick, Florida. She is an exceptional equine dentist and is one of the few fellow veterinarians I know (besides myself) who actually love doing teeth! Dr. Holmes will be working part time with us. Please help us welcome her to our practice.

Dr. Elizabeth "Lizzie" Holmes is the newest member of the CBE team. Dr. Holmes received her undergraduate degree in animal and dairy science at UGA in 2004. While an undergraduate student, she competed as a charter member of UGA's first equestrian team. Dr. Holmes then went on to graduate from UGA's vet school and completed an internship there in field services. During her internship, Dr. Holmes developed skills in equine dentistry and reproduction under experts Dr. Michael Lowder and Dr. Richard Fayer-Hosken. Her new love for dentistry prompted her to open her own ambulatory dentistry practice, Holmes Performance Veterinary Services, in July of 2009. In fall of 2009, Dr. Holmes enrolled at the Chi Institute of Chinese Medicine to become a certified veterinary acupuncturist. Currently, Dr. Holmes is working at Covered Bridge part-time and continuing Holmes PVS the remainder of the week. Holmes PVS provides dental and acupuncture

services to all of Georgia and South Carolina (with the exception of the Covered Bridge Equine practice range). Dr. Holmes is married to Mercer University's assistant baseball coach, Justin Holmes. The couple loves all things baseball and has two horses, Sweetheart and Blue. Sweetheart is Dr. Holmes' first pony and is 30 years old, while Blue is a retired UGA equestrian team horse that Dr. Holmes loves to ride. They also have one dog, a rambunctious beagle named Indie.

### Bar Shoe H Livestock Production & Prospect Sale

All of us at CBE are very proud to spread the word about a unique event that is happening at one of our client's farms in Colbert, Georgia on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Larry and Flo Hix, owners of Bar Shoe H Livestock, are hosting an auction at their farm. Many of you may have seen their ad on the front page of Stable Mates. Below is some information on the sale from Flo Hix. Also, you may find additional information, pictures, and directions to the farm on their website at [www.barshoeh.com](http://www.barshoeh.com)

"Bar Shoe H Livestock is a Foundation Quarter Horse breeding farm located 15 miles East of Athens, Georgia. Every two years we have a Production and Prospect Sale. We sell, in conjunction with contributors to our sale, horses that have the Hancock and Driftwood bloodlines. The sale is an auction with an auctioneer. During this time our farm is open to anyone interested in these horses or just curious about what we do. We welcome anyone interested to join us on **August 28, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. EDT**. Come see our stallions, mares, and foals. You do not have to come to buy. We welcome everyone."

Flo and Larry Hix





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### Introduction to Acupuncture

Alternative medicine has recently become more widely accepted by people everywhere. Equine acupuncture, herbal medicine, and alternative therapies have given veterinarians additional options for non-invasive treatment plans. Pain relief without using drugs with potential side effects is one of the advantages of equine acupuncture. Therapy is also aimed at treating the underlying problem.



**Alternative medicine is very rewarding, but doesn't replace conventional veterinary medicine.** Horses are protected from disease by vaccinations, corneal ulcers are treated with medication applied topically to the eye, and many wounds need sutures and antibiotics! But when horses suffer from back pain and hip pain, there are limited options for treatment with conventional medicine. This is where acupuncture can be very beneficial. There are also a number of FDA- approved herbal treatments for horses that provide less invasive treatment for various conditions. For example, there is an herb for itchy skin that has none of the side effects that steroids have.

**Acupuncture can also be used in conjunction with traditional therapies.** For example, when treating a horse with laminitis, the horse can receive x-rays, anti inflammatories (Bute), +/- shoeing changes, +/- feeding changes, +/- icing, stall rest with deep bedding, and acupuncture for pain relief. **A combination treatment plan is ideal, which incorporates both Eastern medicine and conventional Western medicine.**

Many of you may find the following chart very interesting. It is a detailed description of personality characteristics within the Five Elements. In Chinese medicine, individuals are classified based on personality and the treatment plan can vary depending on where they are grouped. **What personality is your horse?** Remember, not all horses will fit under just one category and therefore they may have a combination pattern.

p.s. The best acupuncture patients are "Earth" horses! They fall asleep while the needles are being placed! Water horses generally gallop outside of the barn on the 2<sup>nd</sup> needle☺



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## What personality is your horse?

FIRE	
<p><b>Balanced</b></p> <p>lively playful communicative very friendly, or affectionate loves to be petted center of the party sensitive normal mental activity “The Emperor”</p>	<p><b>Unbalanced</b></p> <p>insomnia separation anxiety restlessness or hyperactive mental disturbance too noisy crazy (Dances naked on roof) heart problems tongue ulceration scared without reason</p>

WOOD	
<p><b>Balanced</b></p> <p>decisive, or competitive assertive, or confident dominant, or aggressive strong, fearless impulsive, hasty athletic-stamina alpha animal pioneer spirit “The General”</p>	<p><b>Unbalanced</b></p> <p>ligament or tendon problems liver problems red eyes irritable or angers easily ear problems hoof problems foot problems seizure activity</p>

EARTH	
<p><b>Balanced</b></p> <p>Slow and consistent Serene and balanced Round and large Relaxed, laid back Normal bowel activity Good appetite, easy keeper Friendly, loyal Cares for others (motherly) “The Mother”</p>	<p><b>Unbalanced</b></p> <p>Diarrhea Constipation Loss of appetite Colic or abdominal pain Gum or lip disease Weak muscles Over eats Excessive worrier</p>

WATER	
<p><b>Balanced</b></p> <p>Careful Timid, shy Fearful Self contained Hides or runs away Meditative/good observer Long life span Strong teeth and bones “Good Observer”</p>	<p><b>Unbalanced</b></p> <p>Hind end weakness Withdrawn Arthritis or disk disease Urinary problems Kidney problems Disturbed growth Deafness, bad teeth Reproductive problems Premature aging</p>

METAL	
<p><b>Balanced</b></p> <p>Loves order Obeys the rules Aloof, quiet Independent Symmetrical body Disciplined attitude Good haircoat “Good Organizer”</p>	<p><b>Unbalanced</b></p> <p>Dry skin Sinus problems Nasal discharge or congestion Asthma Breathing difficulty Coughs Upper airway or lung infection Weak voice Excessive sadness or grief</p>

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Interesting Cases

### Abscess from Banamine given Intramuscularly

On March 21, 2010 “Caro nell” was feeling a bit dumpy and wasn’t interested in eating grain. Based on her discomfort she was administered Banamine (Flunixin Meglumine), intramuscularly, as labeled on the bottle. The following morning Caro nell was still feeling under the weather and was evaluated on emergency. Her biggest problem at that time was a fever of 104°F and no appetite. The following day she developed a large swelling over the right side of her neck. Using our ultrasound we were able to figure out that the swelling was not fluid filled, but rather filled with gas. In this case, gas under the skin was a sign of a deep bacterial infection.

Unfortunately, a terrible side effect of administering Banamine in the muscle is the development of a severe muscle infection. The culprit is *Clostridium spp.* bacteria. *Clostridium spp.* produces a potent toxin that leads to a severe inflammatory reaction, thus making the animal extremely ill. Common clinical features of this disease include: warm painful musculature over the site of injection, fever, lethargy, stiffness and high heart rate. Typically these signs are seen within 48 hours of administration. Treatment entails fluid therapy, antibiotics, pain management and aggressive surgical debridement of dead tissue and drain placement (figure 1). Prognosis is considered to be guarded. Roughly 1 in 3 horses die of this disease. Of the patients that survive, many are left with an irregular appearance to the muscle and skin in the location of the injection.



**Figure 2: Day 2, several incisions have been made into the affected tissue to release gas and pus. You can appreciate how much swelling has developed in 48hrs.**



**Figure 1: Day 15, there is still a large amount of drainage from deep skin pockets. The wound still requires daily flushing and wound debridement.**

Caro nell has undergone over 10 weeks of treatment including fluid therapy, multiple minor surgeries (figure 1), weeks of antibiotics, and pain management. She also endured several weeks of daily wound flushing and debridement of any dead tissue (figure 2 & 3). In figure 4, you can appreciate the residual unevenness to Caro nell’s neck musculature. This is a life threatening infection and even with best medicine not all patients can be saved. Fortunately Caro nell has responded well to treatment and is expected to make a full recovery.



**Figure 4: Day 35, Caro nell's incisions have closed significantly, but are not completely healed.**



**Figure 3: Day 68, wound contraction continues to occur, and a minor residual scar is expected.**

Although the Banamine label allows for intramuscular injection, clearly such treatment is not without risk. Therefore, veterinarians currently recommend administering Banamine intravenously or orally. Intravenous injections should be performed by individuals familiar with this technique.