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Fecal Egg Counts

As fall is upon us, I would like to remind everyone that Fecal Egg counts are due on all horses before the last deworming. It is important to know what worm burden your horses have to get and keep them on the right deworming program. Many of you have started this program of monitoring fecal egg output in the individual horse but have not followed up on the twice a year examination as recommended. This may put your horse pasture at

risk of being contaminated and subsequently infecting all your horses.

Remember, a small fecal ball collected fresh after defecation is all we need to count eggs and classify your horse in the proper deworming program. *Be sure you have not dewormed in the last 2 months (Ivermectin products) or greater (Moxidectin, Quest) and get the refrigerated sample in by 3 days.*

Just sampling a few does not work. **Every horse has to be tested.**

Mowing your pasture during the dry periods of the fall would be great as the only thing that kills worm eggs is desiccation on warm days in areas of reduced vegetation. For those of you with other large animal species, i.e. Cattle, goats, sheep, allow them to graze the horse pastures on occasion as they will clean up horse worm eggs and larvae and not be affected.

Equine Rabies

Due to vaccination protocols this spring that did not include rabies, it is very important that we now all check our records to make sure it is given this fall. None of us want to risk the possibility of any of our horses coming down with a neurologic condition plus no history of current rabies vaccination.

In Wisconsin, the most common wild animals to carry rabies are the skunk and bat; however the raccoon, fox, coyote, bobcat and other carnivores can carry the rabies virus also.

These animals, especially if seen wandering around during the day, are highly suspect.

Signs of rabies disease vary but the most common is a change in attitude. **There is no treatment for rabies once the signs appear.**

Since there is not a treatment for rabies in animals, and it is a human health hazard causing death, **it is extremely important to keep your animals up to date on the rabies vaccine.** All cats, dogs, and horses should be vaccinated on the premises.

The fate of horses that contract rabies is dismal, as rabies is always fatal. Clinical signs include, but are not limited to, going off feed, depression, excessive salivation, difficulty swallowing, lack of coordination, aggressive behavior, hyper-excitability, colic, convulsions, or paralysis.

These signs are similar to other diseases affecting the horse's nervous system, but in the case of rabies, become so severe, the horse is euthanized or dies within days.

Because there is no way to diagnose rabies in live animals, horse owners and the treating veterinarians who suspect rabies face the task of sending the horse's brain to a diagnostic laboratory where it is examined for the presence of lesions which are characteristic with rabies.

Rabies brings significant heartache to horse owners and can be avoided with just one simple step—**vaccination**. Rabies vaccination was a 100% protective after 14 months according to the following study "Efficacy and Duration of Immunity of an Inactivated Equine Rabies Virus Vaccine; Barnett & others IVIS 2009." **Annual vaccination is needed to continue protection.**

Insulin Resistant & Cushing's Horse

During this time of year the horse has a natural increase in hormonal activity in preparing for the cold months ahead. All of this is good, but for horses with insulin resistance and horses being treated for Cushing's to control high circulating ACTH levels, this increase can bring on another bout of sore front feet or recurring laminitis.

Along with this, plants on pasture begin to store fructan sugar in their stems to store energy for the winter. This fructan is highly indigestible in the horse and is a major cause of laminitis. Be careful of turning horses out on pasture after a sunny day followed by a light frost as these plants will be loaded with sugars even if over-all the pasture looks sparse.

From now on till December, we are offering Insulin testing and ACTH testing at half price. It is highly recommended that this be done to make sure our pergolide is prescribed correctly, even if it is only for a temporary increase during the winter months. We can get a handle on insulin levels early and adjust diets on horses suspected of having a problem as well.

Foot consultations can be done as well at this time to assure comfort on the frozen hard ground that will be ahead. We can get together with the farrier to make adjustments now that we did not want to do earlier in the year because of the horses use or our schedules.



Got Points?

This horse did.....

Do not forget to have your horse's teeth checked this fall.

Multiple horse discounts & call fee consolidation can be arranged!

Visit us on the web:
www.dairylandvet.net



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