



U of M Horse Newsletter

Providing research-based information to Minnesota Horse Owners

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Care of the New Born Foal By: Christie Ward, DVM, U of M

After waiting for almost a year, your mare is finally ready to give birth! Healthy foals are very active, stand and nurse within 2 hours, and pass urine and orange-brown manure (meconium) within 6 hours. When the umbilical cord breaks, dip the navel stump in dilute Nolvasan® to prevent infection, and repeat every 8 hours for 48 hours. The mare's first milk (colostrum) is very important for the foal,

as it contains antibodies needed to ward off infection. If the mare leaks her colostrum, or if the foal fails to nurse well in the first 12 hours, it will be at high risk for life-threatening infections. Since newborn foals can develop serious illness very quickly, you should contact your veterinarian *immediately* if your foal fails to stand and nurse vigorously soon after

birth, or if you notice danger signals such as depression, reduced nursing, diarrhea, dehydration, or persistent straining to urinate or defecate. Even if the birth goes smoothly and your foal appears normal and healthy, a health check and blood test for antibody levels in the first 24 hours are strongly recommended.

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Come See Us At The MN Horse Expo

DATE	TIME	TITLE/PRESENTER	BUILDING
Friday, April 28	3:00 pm	"Good Hay Gone Bad" by P. Peterson	DNR
	4:00 pm	"Fly Control Around Horses" by R. Moon	Ramberg
	5:00 pm	"What to do When your Horse Colics" by F. Jenner	Ramberg
	6:00 pm	"Why Won't My Mare Get and Stay Pregnant?" by S. Madill	Ramberg
	2:30, 4:00 & 5:30 pm	U of M Veterinary Hospital Tour	Bus loading on Liggett Street
Saturday, April 29	Noon	"Why Won't My Mare Get and Stay Pregnant?" by S. Madill	Ramberg
	Noon & 4:00 pm	"Fly Control Around Horses" by R. Moon	DNR (Noon) Ramberg (4 pm)
	1:00 pm	"Laminitis, also Known as "Founder"" by A. Barns	Ramberg
	2:00 pm	"Breathless: Heaves in Horses" by C. Ward	Ramberg
	3:00 pm	"Snotty Noses - What Could It Be?" by S. Valberg	Ramberg
	5:00 pm	"Good Hay Gone Bad" by K. Martinson	DNR
	11:30 am, 1:00, 2:30 & 4:00 pm	U of M Veterinary Hospital Tour	Bus loading on Liggett Street
Sunday, April 30	Noon	"Good Hay Gone Bad" by P. Peterson	Ramberg
	1:00 pm	"Treating Equine Sarcoids: A New Option for an Old Problem" by E. Malone	Ramberg
	2:00 pm	"Breathless: Heaves in Horses" by C. Ward	Ramberg

MN Horse Expo

April 28th-30th
St. Paul Fair Grounds
www.mnhorseexpo.org

•**The U of M Large Animal Hospital** has developed package pricing for common surgical procedures. Call for an estimate on arthroscopy, cryptorchid castration, or ovary removal. Sorry, there are some restrictions, we cannot combine packages, and surgery candidates must be otherwise healthy. We also have basic and full poor performance packages (including treadmill evaluation) if your horse is not obviously lame but not performing to his/her capability. Please contact Erin Malone for more information at malon001@umn.edu.



Dividing the pasture area for your horse into several small paddocks is one of the best ways to make the pasture more productive. Small paddocks can also contribute to better manure management and weed control. When a horse finds an area in the pasture that has the type of forage they prefer, they will usually keep on grazing this area and disregard the rest of the pasture. Because of the continuous grazing, the preferred species/areas become weak and can't compete with less desirable plants such as weeds. Allowing appropriate rest periods (approximately 30 days for every 1-2 weeks of grazing) can help reduce overgrazing and stress on desirable pasture plants. It

Q: My vet suggested that we vaccinate the show horses and the colts for equine Herpes virus infections, as he is concerned about the neurological form of the disease. I thought only broodmares needed to be vaccinated for this.

A: Many people share your interest in the protection provided by vaccination for equine Herpes virus infections, which can be highly contagious. Horses are most often affected by two types: Equine Herpes Virus 1 (EHV1) and Equine Herpes Virus 4 (EHV4). EHV4 causes upper respiratory disease with cold-like signs in horses, frequently spreading through a stable or herd. In

Boost Pasture Productivity

By: Krishona Martinson, U of M

is common for a horse to choose an area of the pasture to defecate and not graze. Dividing the pasture into two or more smaller paddocks can help to eliminate this problem. Instead of one or two big dropping areas, you have several smaller ones. Smaller manure piles dry and break up faster, reducing fly numbers and odor. Dragging the paddock helps break up the piles, dries out the manure, and distributes nutrients back to the pasture. Mowing helps even out the pasture area, maintains vegetative growth, and helps to control weeds. Mowing

pastures to a height of 4" three to four times a year will keep the grasses in a vegetative stage, a more desirable and palatable growth stage. Make sure to mow weeds at or before flowering to prevent new seeds from entering the soil. Apply herbicides selectively and carefully, and only if necessary. Applying herbicides in the spring or summer will help control annual and biennial weeds, however, frequent (3-4 times a year) mowing will control most annual weeds. For effective perennial weed control, keep mowing throughout the growing season to prevent

new seeds from forming and keep plants in the vegetative stage. Apply herbicides in early fall (around September 1st) for the most effect control of perennials. Finally, take a soil sample to determine if your pasture needs additional fertilizer. If it does, split the fertilizer in thirds and apply the fertilizer on major summer holidays (Memorial Day, 4th of July and Labor Day). Resting your pasture, rotational grazing, mowing, dragging, and fertilizing will help boost productivity. Remember to introduce horses to pasture slowly over several weeks, and limit grazing for easy keepers or overweight horses.

Ask the Expert

By: Julie Wilson, DVM, U of M

contrast, EHV1 infection is associated with broodmare abortions in the second half of pregnancy or the birth of weak foals that seldom survive without very intensive treatment. In the past, most veterinarians routinely recommended vaccination against EHV1 to reduce the risk of herpes abortion in broodmares, and EHV4 vaccination to prevent respiratory disease. There is some cross protection between EHV1 and EHV4 vaccines, and stronger immunity may occur from the modified live vaccines (Rhinomune and

Calvenza). None of the vaccines were believed to protect the horse from the neurologic signs associated with EHV1. However, a new study conducted at Cornell University has challenged this belief. Using the strain of EHV1 that caused an outbreak of neurologic disease in multiple horses in Ohio, the researcher was able to show that prior vaccination with the modified live product, Rhinomune, actually prevented development of the neurologic disease in the majority of the animals when ponies were experimentally exposed to this strain. This vaccine, although originally designed

to protect horses from EHV4, also has been shown to offer protection from abortion induced by EHV1 when administered quarterly. For owners of multiple broodmares, this alleviates the headache of timing vaccination specifically at 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation, as recommended for the killed EHV1 vaccine, Pneumabort K. The quarterly recommendation is made for high risk broodmares only. Most veterinarians vaccinate other horses annually or semi-annually. Until more data is available, it is premature to recommend that all horses get the extra vaccinations.