



U of M Horse Newsletter

Providing research-based information to Minnesota Horse Owners

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2007 Horse Owner Education Programs

The University of Minnesota is offering five regional horse owner education programs throughout Minnesota in 2007. Each program offers unbiased, researched based information and knowledgeable speakers identified specifically for that region by a committee of local horse experts and enthusiasts. Speakers for these programs include University of Minnesota faculty and staff as well as local veterinarians and horse professionals. Programs are held on Saturdays and begin at 10:00 am (registration at 9:30 am) and end at 3:30 pm. The dates, locations and topics are as follows:

- February 10, 2007. U of M St. Paul Campus at the College of Veterinary Medicine. Topics include: Hoof Care, Rehabilitation & Complimentary Therapies, Care of Elderly Horses, Hoof Care Lab, Rehabilitation & Complimentary Therapies Lab, Body Condition Scoring Lab, and Research Update.
- February 17, 2007. Crookston, MM at the UMC Horse Facility. Topics include: Care of Elderly Horses, Equine

Metabolic Syndrome, Nutrition for Weanlings & Yearlings, Pasture Management, Body Condition Scoring, Saddle Fitting, Equine Behavior, Basic Care, Hay, Pre-Purchase Exam, First Aid, and Equine Facilities.

- February 24, 2007. Rochester, MN at the Heintz Center. Topics include: Hay, Pasture Management, Mare & Foal Care, Nutrition 101, Nutrition for Weanlings & Yearlings, Hoof Care, Hauling Your Horse Safely, Vaccinations & Deworming, Care of Elderly Horses, Bits, Saddle Fitting, and Conformation Effects on Horse Performance.
- March 10, 2007. Foley, MN at the Foley Intermediate School. Topics include: Pasture Management, Hay, First Aid, Trailer Safety, Nutrition 101, Mare & Foal Care, Nutrition for Weanlings & Yearlings, Hoof Care, Lameness, Dentistry, Bits, and Vaccinations & Deworming.
- March 24, 2007. Cloquet, MN at the Cloquet Forestry Center. Topics include:

Winter Care, Care of Elderly Horses, Trail Riding, Parasite & Deworming, Nutrition, Pasture Management, Hay, Bits, Saddle Fitting, Dentistry, When to Call a Vet, and Mare & Foal Care.

Pre-registration is required for all programs and registration is limited. On-line registration is available at: www.cvm.umn.edu/outreach.

The cost to attend each program is \$35/person/location which includes lunch and printed materials.

Lunch and printed materials are sponsored by Nutrena, 3M, and the MN Board of Animal Health.

For more information visit www.extension.umn.edu/horse. Please contact Kristi at 888-241-0719 or marti987@umn.edu if you have additional questions or to register by mail.

In case of inclement weather, call 888-241-0719.

These programs are recommended for ages 13 and up.

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Up Coming Events

REGIONAL HORSE OWNER PROGRAMS

February 10th, 2007
St. Paul, MN
College of Vet Medicine

February 17th, 2007
Crookston, MN
UMC Horse Facility

February 24th, 2007
Rochester, MN
Heintz Center

March 10th, 2007
Foley, MN
Foley School

March 24th, 2007
Cloquet, MN
Cloquet Forestry Center

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U of M Receives A \$2.5 Million Equine Genetic Diseases Grant

Veterinarians, breeders and horse owners increasingly recognize that genetic factors have a major impact on the health and well-being of horses. The extreme difficulty in diagnosing and treating heritable and complex disorders in horses has recently been addressed by a major grant to the University of Minnesota from the Morris Animal Foundation aimed at decoding and analyzing the genetic causes of a number of important equine diseases. The Morris Animal Foundation is the world's largest private funding source for companion animal and

wildlife health studies. In 2005, Morris Animal Foundation announced a new initiative to pinpoint equine health priorities and rapidly advance equine health through a large-scale consortium grant. The foundation recently announced the selection of the proposal from the University of Minnesota for funding. This \$2.5 million grant for an Equine Consortium on Medical Genetics will be led by University of Minnesota professors Jim Mickelson and Stephanie Valberg in collaboration with 32 scientists from 18 academic institutions in nine countries. Drs. Mickelson

and Valberg have proven expertise in translating rapidly accumulating knowledge on basic equine biology into practical solutions to problems facing equine veterinarians around the world. Their work has already led to the identification of the genetic causes for foal deaths such as Overo Lethal White Syndrome in Paint Horses and glycogen branching enzyme deficiency in Quarter Horses. This grant will allow the development of new molecular tools, specific diagnostic tests and therapeutic strategies to treat and prevent diseases such as tying-up, heaves, osteochondrosis, laminitis

and many others. Genetic diseases affect horses from every breed, so this project has tremendous potential for preventing and treating diseases with heritable risk factors. The pace of equine genetics research was fast forwarded recently by the announcement from The National Institutes of Health that the equine genome will be sequenced within the next year by scientists at the Broad Institute at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. A Thoroughbred mare named "Twilight" has been selected as the representative horse for genome sequencing.

When to Call The Vet: Colic, Wounds & Lameness

By: Erin Malone, DVM, U of M

Colic refers to any abdominal pain. Signs include looking at the flank, pawing, stretching, posturing to urinate, lying down and/or rolling. Call your veterinarian immediately if colic signs persist for greater than 15-30 minutes, if the signs are severe (rolling), or if the colic doesn't improve with walking. You should also call if your horse doesn't seem to be passing enough manure (normal is greater than 3 piles/day) or is passing small dry fecal balls or has diarrhea. It is also important if your horse isn't eating normally or if the horse got into the grain bin or sack and ate more than usual. While you wait,

keep walking the horse (helps the discomfort and helps pass manure), remove feed so it doesn't make any blockage worse, and monitor any vital signs you know (heart rate, mucous membrane color). **Wounds** are common in horses and most are readily treated and don't lead to lasting problems. However, some wounds can be life threatening, particularly if they lead to severe blood loss or cause infection of a joint or other deep structure. Call your veterinarian immediately if the wound: goes deeper than the skin and/or bleeds heavily, exudes clear sticky fluid, is over a structure that bends (regardless of size), is

on the back side of a limb below the knee or hock (important structures), is in the frog, over the chest or abdomen, or involves the penis or prepuce. If a nail is penetrating the limb or foot, check with your veterinarian before pulling it out. Size doesn't matter; puncture wounds can be the most dangerous. While you wait, clean any contaminated wounds with tap water, cover with clean dry bandage (diapers can be very helpful if you don't have regular bandage material), and check to see when your horse last had a tetanus booster. **Lameness** is another common problem and can be resolved with minimal treatment. However,

sometimes lameness can indicate a complete/incomplete fracture, severe damage to a tendon, or other injury that will rapidly get worse if not treated appropriately. Call your veterinarian immediately if your horse doesn't use the limb at all, toe touches with the limb, is lame at a walk, the leg moves abnormally (complete fracture), the horse won't stand on one leg while you pick up the other, and/or almost falls when walking. Remember, even mild lamenesses often respond best when treated early. Next month, when to call your vet in the cases of nervous and urinary systems, breathing, and eyes will be discussed.