

COMSTOCK EQUINE HOSPITAL

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Health
CHRONICLE

Comstock
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Health
CHRONICLE

FALL 2014



Welcome, Dr. Ruby!



Dr. Kristi Ruby is a native of Minden, Nevada. She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State University in 2013. She is returning home to northern Nevada after completing a year long equine medicine and surgery internship at Steinbeck Country Equine Clinic in Salinas, California. Her professional interests include lameness and sports medicine, ultrasonography, reproduction, neonatology, and production animal medicine. Her goal is to become a Certified Veterinary Acupuncturist. In her

free time, she enjoys showing and riding paint horses, spending time with her fiance Justin and their dogs Savannah, Sir, and Doc, and hunting. 🐾

Welcome, Dr. Plunkett!



Dr. Amanda Plunkett is a native of Vacaville, California. She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from University California Davis and is starting her year long equine medicine and surgery internship with us. Her professional interests include lameness, sports medicine, surgery, and production animal medicine. In her free time, she enjoys hiking with her miniature Dachshund Yogi, running, roping, and cooking. She is an avid, lifelong San Francisco Giants fan! 🐾



Don't let your horse be a statistic...

Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome

Tuesday September 30th 6:30pm

Lecture and BBQ Dinner Sponsored by Merial

Please join us as we welcome guest lecturer Dr. Meg Green of Merial Equine Veterinary Services Team for a presentation on Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS). Dr. Green will be discussing the clinical signs of EGUS, how to diagnose this syndrome, and recommended treatment options.

Attendance is limited to 75 people.

Please RSVP by phone (775) 849-0120 or email

comstocklargeanimalhospital@yahoo.com

by Friday September 26th. 🐾

Gastroscopy Wet-Lab

Wednesday October 1st

Sponsored by Merial

We will be selecting 10-12 horses to receive a complimentary gastroscopy procedure. If your horse is in competition, has a history of intermittent colic, or has been treated with an over the counter omeprazole** or ulcer medication, he or she may have Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome. To see if your horse qualifies for the procedure, please contact our office by phone (775) 849-0120 or email comstocklargeanimalhospital@yahoo.com.

**Horses that are currently on Gastrogard or Ulcergard are not eligible for the procedure. 🐾

SmartPak's ColiCare:

A \$7500 Colic Surgery

Reimbursement Plan

SmartPak is offering a free colic surgery reimbursement program that is compatible with your existing equine insurance and covers horses 5 months of age or older. To enroll, you simply order a SmartPak ColiCare eligible product, enroll online, and maintain the annual wellness requirements. There is no enrollment fee, and no documentation is required at the time of enrollment. The ColiCare products are designed to best support your horse's digestive health. While the ColiCare plan does not have an age limit, it does exclude horses who have had a previous colic surgery, a history of chronic colic, or an incidence of colic treated by a veterinarian within the past twelve months.

For a list of ColiCare eligible products, information regarding the annual wellness requirements, and other frequently asked questions, please visit <https://www.smartpakequine.com/colicare>. 🐾

The only thing better than
\$7500 of colic surgery coverage
is never having to use it

ColiCare
by SMARTPAK

Colic: What to Expect

Kristi M. Ruby DVM

Colic is one of the most common medical and surgical problems that we see as veterinarians. Although colic can range from a mild belly ache to a very painful twist of the intestines, there are a few important things to remember.

First, what should you look for? Signs of colic can vary from very mild to very extreme. Mild signs may include being off feed, decrease in fecal output, and decrease in water intake. You may also notice your horse to have firm dry feces or even diarrhea. Horses will often paw, look at their sides, and lie down quietly. Severe colics may paw, roll, and thrash around. If you see these signs, you should get your horse up walking to prevent them from hurting themselves. Briefly note whether they have eaten, how much water they have consumed, and if they have passed feces. Once you have done so, call your veterinarian.

Initial treatment of colic is similar whether you are in the field or at the hospital. A full physical exam will be performed to help the veterinarian determine the severity and possible underlying cause. The horse will then most likely be sedated. This not only helps facilitate the upcoming treatments but also helps to break the pain cycle occurring within the horse. Banamine may be given at this time in order to help decrease inflammation and pain. A nasogastric tube will be passed in order to check for stomach reflux. Reflux forms when there is decreased forward movement of the gastrointestinal contents. This can occur due to a blockage or simply due to ileus, a decrease in gastrointestinal motility. Water, electrolytes, and/or oil may be given at this time via the tube in order to help rehydrate the horse. It is important to pass a nasogastric tube due to the fact that horses cannot vomit. If there is a large amount of fluid in the stomach, no additional fluids will be given via the tube. In most cases, a rectal exam will also be performed. An abnormal rectal may indicate that the colon is not sitting in the correct location, the colon may be impacted with firm feces or sand, or there is a significant amount of gas present. If available, a full abdominal ultrasound will be performed. In addition to the spleen, liver, and kidneys, both the small intestine and large intestine are visualized in order to gauge the cause, severity, and prognosis of the colic. Peritoneal fluid (fluid surrounding the intestines and organs) can also be seen. An abdominal paracentesis or "belly tap" collects the fluid for analysis. If the fluid has increased protein, lactate, or decreased glucose, this may signal that there is compromised bowel present in the abdomen.

Intravenous fluid therapy is the next step in medical management of colic. Fluid therapy helps rehydrate the horse, improves blood pressure and vascular perfusion, and helps increase intestinal motility. A horse's pain is the biggest indicator that medical management is not working. If a horse continues to be painful despite intravenous fluids and pain management, surgery is the next step.

This is one of the hardest questions for many owners to answer: Is surgery an option for your horse? This is a question that owners should consider prior to their horse experiencing any signs of colic. It can be a very emotional time when your horse is painful and in distress. There are many factors that need to be considered when asking this question. Is surgery financially an option? Is your horse a healthy candidate? What lesion is suspected? Large intestinal lesions have a much better prognosis, whereas small intestinal lesions can have more complications directly following surgery. Your veterinarian can help guide you prior to surgery based on your horse's post-operative prognosis. In one study, long term survival rate for post-op colic surgery horses was 84%. The most common complications include future colic, adhesions, and ventral hernia formation. Additionally, a University of Pennsylvania study showed that age was not a significant factor in survival rates.

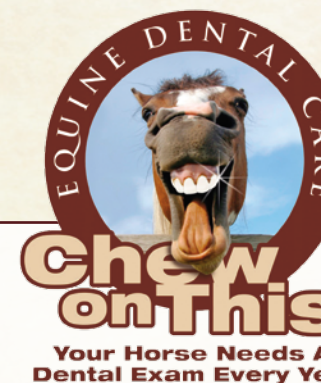
Colic can vary from case to case. Knowing your horse and noting early signs that your horse is not right can help catch signs of colic at the onset. Having a plan in place can help facilitate decision making in this time of emergency. As always, do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian with any questions. 🐾

FALL VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

Area	Day	Date
Washoe Valley	Sat	13-Sep
Washoe Valley	Tues	16-Sep
Washoe Valley	Wed	1-Oct
Washoe Valley	Tues	7-Oct
Washoe Valley	Wed	15-Oct
Washoe Valley	Sat	1-Nov
SW Reno	Sat	20-Sep
SW Reno	Wed	17-Sep
SW Reno	Thurs	2-Oct
SW Reno	Tues	14-Oct
SW Reno	Sat	25-Oct
Mt Rose / Pleasant Valley	Thurs	18-Sep
Mt Rose / Pleasant Valley	Tues	30-Sep
Mt Rose / Pleasant Valley	Wed	8-Oct
Mt Rose / Pleasant Valley	Sat	18-Oct
Lemmon / Antelope Valley	Thurs	18-Sep
Lemmon / Antelope Valley	Tues	30-Sep
Lemmon / Antelope Valley	Sat	4-Oct
Lemmon / Antelope Valley	Wed	15-Oct
Spanish Springs	Tues	16-Sep
Spanish Springs	Wed	24-Sep
Spanish Springs	Sat	27-Sep
Spanish Springs	Tues	14-Oct
North Valleys	Thurs	25-Sep
North Valleys	Tues	7-Oct
Golden / Sun Valley	Wed	24-Sep
Golden / Sun Valley	Thurs	16-Oct
Carson / Dayton	Tues	23-Sep
Carson / Dayton	Thurs	16-Oct
Toll Rd / VC Highlands	Thurs	25-Sep
Toll Rd / VC Highlands	Wed	8-Oct
West Reno / Verdi-Mogul	Tues	23-Sep
West Reno / Verdi-Mogul	Thurs	2-Oct
Palomino Valley	Mon	6-Oct
Gardnerville / Genoa	Mon	13-Oct
Minden	Mon	22-Sep
Stagecoach / Silver Springs	Mon	29-Sep

Price List	
Farm Call	15
Physical/Wellness Exam	15
Rhino-Influenza	29
Strangles I.N.	32
Rabies	21
Deworm	17-24
Deworm (Foal/Mini)	14
Fecal Exam	23
Clean Sheath	45
Sedation- Starts At	45
Coggins	30
Health Certificate	44
Additional on H.C.	13

A 5% discount will be applied to owners with 5 or more horses. Not applicable with any other discount.
Zoetis Immunization Support Guarantee: Zoetis Animal Health will pay for diagnostic & treatment costs up to \$5000.00 for your horse if he or she has been vaccinated by one of our doctors and becomes infected by West Nile, Influenza, Tetanus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and/or Western Equine Encephalitis within one year of vaccination. This guarantee excludes Strangles and Rhino virus.



\$150.00 **Fall Dentistry Special!!!**

All dental procedures during the fall clinics will be performed for the discounted price of \$150 plus sedatives. Sheath cleanings may be added to your examination for the discounted price of \$30. To best service our clients, all of our doctors have received extensive training and continuing education opportunities in the field of equine dentistry.

The discounted price includes:

- 🐾 Full Mouth Speculum Examination
- 🐾 Dental Equilibration
(performed with hand floats and power float equipment)

Other discounts not applicable with the Fall Dentistry Special.