

COMSTOCK EQUINE HOSPITAL

90 W. Laramie Drive Reno, Nevada 89521
P: 775.849.0120 F: 775.849.3129
www.comstockequine.com

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
RENO, NV
PERMIT NO. 828

Health CHRONICLE

Comstock Staff

Joseph M. Coli *DVM*
Stephen C. Damonte *DVM*
Shane M. Miller *DVM Dipl. ACVS*
Elisabeth M. Lau *DVM*
Sadie B. Myers *DVM*
Kelby E. Myers *DVM*
Lexie Conrow *LVT*
Desirae Johnson *VTIT*
Rachel Mobley *VTIT*



Comstock EQUINE HOSPITAL

Health CHRONICLE

SPRING 2014



Did You Know?

- Dr. Joe Coli was named the 2013 PRCA Veterinarian of the Year at the NFR in Las Vegas in December.
- Dr. Shane Miller completed his first Ironman Triathlon in September.
- Comstock Equine Hospital has been serving the Northern Nevada area since 1971.
- We host continuing education meetings for our equine practitioner colleagues in the area each spring.
- Eye Care for Animals sees referral ophthalmology cases at our facility.
- We accept Care Credit in addition to our traditional forms of payment.
- Our web page has a new look. Check it out and let us know what you think!
- We are on Facebook! Like Us and stay current on the latest news. 🐾

2nd Annual Spring Horse Expo
Saturday, May 3rd
9am - 12pm
Bartley Ranch Horse Arena

We are excited to host the 2nd Annual Spring Horse Expo at its new location Bartley Ranch Horse Arena. Join us for a morning of local horse organizations, local vendors, and breed and discipline demonstrations. Look for more information on participating groups and businesses on Facebook. If you are interested in having a booth or participating in the demonstrations, please email us at comstocklargeanimalhospital@yahoo.com. 🐾

Digital Coggins are Now Available!

We are excited to be teaming with Global Vet Link to provide you digital Coggins and health certificates. This means that you will be able to access your horse's test results and travel papers online any time of the day. The Global Vet Link Coggins forms will also include a digital photo of your horse, providing a more accurate identification of markings and brands. For more information, please contact our office. 🐾

Needle Arthroscopy: A Less Invasive Alternative to Standard Arthroscopy

Shane M. Miller DVM Dipl. ACVS

Minimally invasive arthroscopic procedures have been in use for decades for both human and equine patients. This technique has proven to be extremely helpful both to diagnose and treat many joint conditions. It uses a very small 4mm diameter tube with a camera and light to “look” inside the joint. Because of its size, there is very little soft tissue disruption which means less pain and a faster recovery in most instances.

Even though standard arthroscopic procedures are minimally invasive, they still require our equine patient to be placed under general anesthesia. Albeit very low, general anesthesia in horses still carries some small amount of risk not to mention additional cost.

Recently a new technique has been developed that uses an ultrathin arthroscope called a needle scope. The needle scope is the size of a hypodermic 18 gauge needle (1.3mm). Similar to the conventional arthroscope, it has tiny fiber optics that allows us to view inside the joint. However unlike conventional arthroscopy, this procedure does not require an incision and is performed on a standing patient under local anesthesia and sedation, eliminating the need for general anesthesia.

In our equine patients, we are limited with specific diagnostic modalities. While MRI has become the gold standard in orthopedic diagnostics, the larger joints such as the shoulder and stifle are not accessible in the unit. The needle scope can serve as a diagnostic tool that enables us to correctly diagnose the condition that is causing pain within these joints. Recently Colorado State University research found needle scope to be comparable to other diagnostics such as conventional arthroscopy, radiology and ultrasound.

We currently offering the needle scope in our repertoire of orthopedic diagnostics at Comstock Equine Hospital. We are able to perform it as an outpatient surgery. If arthroscopic therapy is needed following a needle scope procedure, we are able to offer the arthroscopy at a discounted price. Its use allows us to institute the appropriate therapeutic plan and get our patients on the road to recovery. 🐾



Urinary Obstruction in Pet Goats

Elisabeth M. Lau DVM



Urinary obstruction caused by urinary calculi (or stones) in goats is a serious and potentially fatal condition. Because of their anatomy, males are considerably more at risk than females. Factors causing stone formation include diets high in grains and alfalfa, times of decreased water consumption, castrating at an early age, and genetic predisposition. Signs that your goat has a urinary tract obstruction initially include not eating and depression, swishing the tail, and stretching out the back legs. Later dribbling urine, not urinating at all, abdominal pain and lying down can be seen. Because they cannot urinate appropriately, toxins build up in their system, and they can potentially die. If you see that your goat is off food or depressed, call your veterinarian immediately.

Anytime a castrated male goat is anorexic or depressed, a urinary obstruction must be ruled out first. A thorough physical examination in addition to ultrasound and radiographs may be used to diagnose urinary calculi. Because of their complex anatomy, male goats cannot be catheterized. Therefore, surgical removal of the calculi is often required.

Unfortunately even if the obstruction can be removed, there is a high risk of reoccurrence. Because of this, prevention is key! Many of the grains marketed for goats are intended for production animals and are high in proteins and low in phosphorus which may cause stones to form. As with any grazing animal, a good quality forage should be the basis of the diet. Grass hay or a high grass/low alfalfa mix hay with a vitamin mineral supplement should be adequate for your goat's needs. Grains and straight alfalfa diets should be avoided in castrated male goats. Urine acidifiers such as ammonium chloride are recommended, but they are very bitter in taste and difficult to get your goat to eat. Manna Pro® Goat Mineral is an excellent product that most goats find tasty. Fresh water should be available at all times. Goats can be very finicky about their water and prefer cool fresh water daily. A salt block can also encourage your goat to drink more water, helping to produce dilute urine. If possible, delaying castration until your goat is 3-4 months of age is ideal. This allows for larger development of the urethra helping to reduce incidence of obstruction. However, it should be noted that male goats are capable of impregnating does as early as three months so stricter management may be required to reduce the risk of mismating.

As it is said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” By making certain management choices, you can help to reduce your goat's risk of blockage and help him live a long life as a member of your family. If you have questions regarding your goat's diet and risk of urinary calculi and obstruction, please do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian. 🐾

FALL VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

Area	Day	Date
Washoe Valley	Tues	4-Mar
Washoe Valley	Sat	8-Mar
Washoe Valley	Wed	19-Mar
Washoe Valley	Tues	1-Apr
Washoe Valley	Thurs	3-Apr
Washoe Valley	Sat	12-Apr
SW Reno	Wed	5-Mar
SW Reno	Sat	15-Mar
SW Reno	Thurs	20-Mar
SW Reno	Tues	25-Mar
SW Reno	Wed	2-Apr
SW Reno	Sat	19-Apr
Mt Rose / Pleasant Valley	Thurs	6-Mar
Mt Rose / Pleasant Valley	Tues	18-Mar
Mt Rose / Pleasant Valley	Thurs	3-Apr
Mt Rose / Pleasant Valley	Sat	5-Apr
Lemmon / Antelope Valley	Tues	4-Mar
Lemmon / Antelope Valley	Thurs	20-Mar
Lemmon / Antelope Valley	Wed	26-Mar
Lemmon / Antelope Valley	Sat	29-Mar
Spanish Springs	Thurs	6-Mar
Spanish Springs	Tues	18-Mar
Spanish Springs	Sat	22-Mar
Spanish Springs	Wed	2-Apr
North Valleys	Thurs	13-Mar
North Valleys	Tues	25-Mar
North Valleys	Thurs	3-Apr
Golden / Sun Valley	Tues	11-Mar
Golden / Sun Valley	Wed	26-Mar
Carson / Dayton	Tues	11-Mar
Carson / Dayton	Thurs	27-Mar
Toll Rd / VC Highlands	Thurs	13-Mar
Toll Rd / VC Highlands	Tues	1-Apr
West Reno / Verdi-Mogul	Wed	12-Mar
West Reno / Verdi-Mogul	Thurs	27-Mar
Palomino Valley	Mon	17-Mar
Palomino Valley	Mon	7-Apr
Gardnerville	Mon	10-Mar
Gardnerville	Fri	4-Apr
Minden	Mon	24-Mar
Minden	Fri	18-Apr
Genoa	Fri	28-Mar
Stagecoach / Silver Springs	Fri	21-Mar

Price List	
Farm Call	15
Physical/Wellness Exam	15
Rhino-Influenza	29
West Nile + EWT	39
Strangles I.N.	32
West Nile Innovator	32
Rabies	21
Deworm	17
Deworm (Quest)	22
Deworm (Foal/Mini)	14
Fecal Exam	22.25
Clean Sheath	45
Sedation- Starts At	45
Digital Coggins (Global Vet Link)	35
Digital Health Certificate (GVL)	44
Additional on H.C.	17

A 5% discount will be applied to owners with 5 or more horses. Not applicable with any other discount.
Pfizer Immunization Support Guarantee: Pfizer Animal Health will pay for diagnostic and 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.



Chew on This!
Your Horse Needs A Dental Exam Every Year

\$150.00 Spring Dentistry Special!!!
All dental procedures during the spring 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:

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

Other discounts not applicable with the Fall Dentistry Special.