

2 0 0 8 S P R I N G E D I T I O N

McKEE-POWNALL EQUINE SERVICES

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✧ *McKee-Pownall Equine Services* ✧

Happy New Year to all! We hope that you are enjoying the snowy winter so far, but spring is not far away. Now is the time to start your plans for the busy summer season, and to get your horse prepped and ready to go when the sunshine returns. Hopefully those of you who wintered on the Southern circuits will bring a little home with you!

Spring Vaccines and Deworming

Spring vaccination and deworming is in full swing. Go to our web site at www.mpequine.com for a list of our current vaccination and deworming recommendations, which is divided into two groups: Horses that travel and show, and those that have little exposure to outside animals. If you are not sure what category your horse falls under, please contact us for advice. The deworming protocol is the same for everybody, as any horse that grazes on pasture will be exposed to parasites. There is documented resistance to many common antihelmintics in Southern Ontario, which we address with a two-year cycle of medication.

Another very important group this time of year are the broodmares and foals. Dr. Buchanan has created a list of vaccination and deworming recommendations for mothers and babies, which will ensure the best level of protection for young stock as they venture out into the world.

Succeed—fecal occult

Awareness of Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome is increasing throughout the horse world. Experiments have demonstrated that even normal healthy horses can develop ulcers in as little as 48 hours if moderately stressed (transport, showing, illness). Many horses that are prone to stomach troubles have been successfully managed with the preventative top-dress supplement called U-Gard. Those with clinical ulcers often have to undergo an initial course of omeprazole, which is a very effective therapy. There are

many ads in the horse magazines advertising a product called “Succeed” and claiming that gastric ulcers can be diagnosed with a “fecal occult blood test”. Basically, the test checks for the presence of blood in the manure. If the horse has a bleeding gastric ulcer, blood and blood products will be passed down the GI tract. While this makes a lot of sense, there are some issues with the accuracy of this test. Currently, the only method to definitively diagnose a gastric ulcer is to examine the stomach lining with an endoscope.

Bio Iso G

You may have noticed that our over-the-counter glucosamine/chondroitin/MSM supplement has a different label. Bioniche has changed the name of the product from “Corta-Rx and Corta-Rx Plus” to “Bio-Iso-G and Bio-Iso-G plus”. The actual supplement is the same, but there was some confusion between the name “Corta-Rx” and “Corta-Flex”, which is a different supplement made by a different company.

Continuing Education

Drs McKee and Pownall attended the American Association of Equine Practitioners annual convention in December, where they participated as members of the farrier and student relations committees, and picked up a lot of new information on lameness research, metabolic diseases, and improving client services.

www.mpequine.com

We are currently working hard on our new website, where we will unveil all sorts of updated information on the latest topics in equine health, along with the new practice logo. The current

website is completely functional and we anticipate unveiling the “new look” over the next couple of months.

New findings on Equine Metabolic Diseases

In the past, any horse that was overweight, laminitic and hairy was automatically diagnosed as “Cushings”. New research has shown that there are actually two distinct syndromes that can cause similar clinical signs, but require a different therapeutic approach. We are now able to apply lab tests to figure out which underlying problem affects the horse, and treat them more effectively.

The two conditions are “Cushings Disease” and “Equine Metabolic Syndrome”. Horses can occasionally suffer from both conditions concurrently. Cushings is the result of a benign tumor in the pituitary gland in secreting hormones that cause excessive hair growth, fatty deposits over the eyes and hips, excessive thirst, and exercise intolerance. These horses are also prone to infections and bouts of laminitis. The “EMS” horses tend to be younger and typically have pony or warmblood ancestry. The problem that they suffer from is insulin resistance, causing them to be stubbornly overweight and suffer from repeated bouts of laminitis. Recent research has shown that high circulating insulin levels actually cause soft tissue breakdown in the foot, resulting in episodes of founder. The good news is that both conditions can be managed, although with different medical and management approaches. Please talk to us about endocrine testing for your horse if you suspect you have either situation on your hands.

Convenient Payment Option

Starting in May, clients who bank with CIBC will be able to make payments to their McKee-Pownall account on-line. This service is free and is the same system that is used for paying bills such as your credit card and telephone charges. We eventually hope to offer this option for all major banks if this pilot program is successful. Please contact Lynn at the Campbellville office if you would like more information.

Barn Mice

Take a moment to check out the website www.barnmice.com. This is an all-new "facebook" type of site that is exclusive to the equestrian community. McKee-Pownall will make regular contributions to the site in the form of instructional videos and "ask the vet" columns. Please join up and make some connections with other horsepeople!

Client Ed days

Thank you to all who attended our Campbellville-Newmarket Client Education Day in January. The turnout was close to 100 guests, making it a great success. We didn't think we could do any better than that, but even more people came to our Client Education Day on February 22 in Millbrook! We will have to look for an even bigger room next year. Thank you again to all who attended, and to the amazing staff from all three clinics who helped to organize the events and came in on their day off to support the vets!

New faces

We are pleased to introduce several new faces at McKee-Pownall Equine Services:

Dr Colleen Maurer will be joining the team at the Millbrook location. Dr Maurer grew up riding hunter/jumpers in Connecticut, and is a graduate of the Atlantic Veterinary College. Dr Maurer has been providing ambulatory care to the equine population in the Northumberland area over the last year, and this region will be amalgamated into the Millbrook territory. Dr Maurer has an interest in general medicine and standardbred lameness.

Dr Kathryn Surasky will be joining the McKee-Pownall Newmarket practice after completing her internship at Wisconsin Equine Hospital in June. Dr Surasky, a graduate of the Western College of Veterinary Medicine, will be providing much needed ambulatory services in the Palgrave/Orangeville/Cookstown area, as well as providing support at the horse show facility. Dr Surasky enjoys show horse practice and performance horse medicine.

Erin Nicholas has joined the Campbellville team as a Veterinary Assistant. She has been involved in the horse industry for the past 17 years. She has been heavily involved in the hunter discipline, showing and grooming at the Trillium and A circuit level and is looking to switch gears and compete in eventing this season. She has recently completed her Undergraduate degree at the University of Guelph.

McKee-Pownall Campbellville also welcomes **Audrey Nicholson!** Originally from Scotland, Audrey has lived and worked in various parts of the world including Australia and Japan. She has a degree in Japanese Studies from McMaster University. Audrey has been involved in Western riding for the past 6 years and is the owner of a Quarter Horse named Honey. She has 2 daughters and enjoys riding with her daughter Ashley and walking her two dogs, Madison & Brewster.

Jessica Schell is our newest Veterinary Assistant at the Newmarket clinic. Originally from the Muskoka area, Jessica has grown up riding and training horses. Jessica has spent time working on a breeding farm and also spent some time in Australia working alongside an equine reproductive and small animal veterinarian. Jessica is currently working towards her Equine Science Certificate and is hoping to get more involved with the reining discipline.

Stephanie Crawford has joined the Millbrook team as a Veterinary Assistant. She graduated from Trent University in 2006 with an English degree but realized that horses are where her heart is. She has ridden and competed in dressage for the past decade, and teaches riding lessons in her spare time.



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