

# 2 0 0 7 W I N T E R E D I T I O N

## McKEE-POWNALL EQUINE SERVICES

McKee-Pownall Equine Services: 12240 2nd Line, Campbellville, ON, L0P 1B0 (519) 856-8225  
McKee-Pownall Equine Services-Newmarket: 4252 Davis Drive, Cedar Valley, ON, L0G 1E0 (905) 898-0370  
Millbrook Equine Clinic: 917 County Road 10, RR#3, Millbrook, ON, L0A 1G0 (705) 932-3030

### ✧ PROUD TO ANNOUNCE ✧

*We are pleased to announce that McKee-Pownall Equine Services has acquired Millbrook Equine Clinic of the Peterborough area. Dr. Rick Conrad and Dr. Carolyn deBassecourt have turned over the reins of the practice after 25 years of developing a reputation for excellence in equine veterinary service. We are glad to welcome Dr. Kelli Gilson, Dr. Lindsay Colwell, Dr. Kristin Buchanan and all the staff of Millbrook to our group. The practice will run business as usual, and we plan to introduce new technologies such as digital x-ray, extracorporeal shockwave therapy and other therapeutic techniques to enhance the services offered to the riding and racehorse clients on the eastern side of the city.*



**Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy**

### Newmarket Addition

We are also excited to introduce **Dr. Diane Chandler** to the Newmarket practice in March, just in time to help Dr. Maggie Turner and Dr. Mike Pownall with the spring rush. Diane is a graduate of the Western Veterinary College in Saskatoon. After graduation, she completed an internship in equine medicine and surgery at the Ontario Veterinary College, and traveled to Wisconsin for a position in a large animal practice. Fortunately, Diane missed living in Canada and we convinced her to join the team at McKee-Pownall-maybe the unusual warm weather during her visit in January helped a bit!

This spring, you can also expect to see and hear a few new faces around the practice as we bring on more staff to assist with office duty and veterinary procedures.

*Having a keen interest in educating future generations of equine veterinarians, Dr. McKee spent a day at the Ontario Veterinary College giving a lecture and lab course to students on ultrasound of the equine limb. This also gave us the chance to recruit some top-notch senior students for their external electives in the busy summer months!*

### Room For Improvement

Recently, Lynn and Angela from the Campbellville facility traveled to Alberta to research new practice software. As we grow and increase locations, there is a need for a comprehensive computer system that allows for better communication between clinics, ease of scheduling, and a more understandable and reliable accounting component (thank you for your patience on that topic!). We have identified two promising finalists and hope to commence installation within the next few months

### Deworming

Many of you are following our strategic deworming program as recommended by OVC parasitologist Dr. Andrew Peregrine. The goal of this program is to prevent shedding of parasite eggs onto grazing areas, thereby reducing the rate of re-infection. This system has worked extremely well for our clients with consistent horse populations in their barns, and is based partly on the fact that most GI parasites undergo a sort of hibernation in the winter, during which they are fairly resistant to dewormers and do not shed eggs. We contacted Dr. Peregrine this past January concerned that the warm weather may have

prevented this “hypobiotic” state, which would require an additional winter deworming. He assured us that this was very unlikely, but a few fecal exams amongst groups of horses would be a good idea to ensure nothing slips through the cracks. Please contact us if you wish to pursue fecal testing in your barn.

### AAEP

Dr. McKee, Dr. Pownall and Dr. Colwell from Millbrook, recently attended the annual American Association of Equine Practitioners conference in San Antonio. This was an excellent continuing education opportunity where we updated our knowledge on a wide range of topics from advanced lameness imaging, to dermatology, to designing a new clinic. It is exciting to attend a lecture and have an “a-ha!” moment that applies to a tricky case back home, and to confirm that we are on the right track with many of our diagnoses and treatment decisions. Dr. McKee continued her work on the student relations committee, and Dr. Pownall gave a presentation on some groundbreaking research he has done on the effect of wedge pads on hoof balance.

## Herpesvirus Outbreak, Wellington, FLA

The equine show community has been abuzz for the last few months over a herpes outbreak in Florida that had tough consequences for the local horse show season. The outbreak originated from a few imported horses that had cleared quarantine before showing any clinical signs of illness. The pathogen is a herpes virus type 1 (commonly known as rhino) with mutations targeting the nervous system and is extremely virulent. There are many subtypes of the virus; EHV-1 is more commonly associated with abortion, while EHV-4 typically causes respiratory symptoms. This is a tricky virus to control, since 80% of horses are infected as foals, and go on to shed virus intermittently throughout adulthood. The major role of vaccination against EHV 4/1 is to prevent shedding of infectious viral particles, which reduces the spread of the disease. It is just as important for the horse in the next stall to get vaccinated as it is for your own, and this is why many show grounds are now requiring proof of recent vaccination. The outbreak on Florida is largely under control due to the swift and decisive actions of the veterinarians and officials in the Wellington area. As of January 7, there were 6



facilities still under quarantine and 1 location under testing, 13 horses have confirmed infections, and 6 horses have died. If you are planning to take horses to the area, contact the destination facility for any additional documents and proof of vaccination that may be required.

Information updates can be accessed on the AAEP website, at [www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org)

## Spring Client Education Session

*Our next Client Education Session will be held on March 24th, 2007 at the Albion Bolton Community Centre, 150 Queen Street South, Bolton, Ontario.*

*The sessions will run from 10 am to 4 pm breaking for an hour lunch.*

*Topics and specific times will be announced in a future letter to our clients.*

*If you have any questions regarding this popular event, please contact Lynn or Angela at our Campbellville office at (519) 856-8225.*

*We hope to see you there!*



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