August, 2019

Welcome to the Oklahoma Horse Health Newsletter, a joint effort between Oklahoma Cooperative Extension Service and the Center for Veterinary Health Sciences.

Each month we provide tips for new horse owners, the latest research on horse health, as well as updates on current events and workshops for horse owners.

Tips for New Horse Owners

Preparing your Horse for Tying

Horses don’t just naturally know how to tie, they have to be actively trained. This month we share some basic practices and training techniques that help horses learn this very important lesson.

Administering Eye Medication to Horses

Dr. Cory Anderson shares some important tips on how to effectively and safely give eye medication to your horse.
From the first case reported in June, five states have now reported outbreaks of vesicular stomatitis, including Oklahoma. The first confirmed case in Oklahoma was reported on July 29 in Tillman county. These states include Texas, Colorado, Wyoming, New Mexico and now Oklahoma. Oklahoma horse owners need to be aware of symptoms of this highly contagious disease. Vesicular stomatitis can affect all livestock, wildlife and even people. Horses can exhibit blister like lesions in the mouth, on the tongue, gums and lips. They may also appear on the coronet band, udder or sheath. Initial symptoms may be drooling or frothing at the mouth due to the irritating lesions. Initial signs can mimic blistering or lesions seen with photosensitivity or ulcerations from foxtails/seedheads. Proper biosecurity measures and personal protective equipment should be used. If your horse has any symptoms or you suspect your horse may have vesicular stomatitis contact your veterinarian immediately.
I would like to thank Brittani Kirkland for all of the support she has provided to me, Oklahoma and Oklahoma's horse owners and young horse enthusiasts over the last two years. Brittani assisted with every equine activity and was instrumental in helping to create innovative and fun educational programming. After completing her Masters degree, she has recently accepted a position in Colorado as a youth livestock educator. Congratulations Brittani - you will be missed in Oklahoma.
Free Services for Owned Equines in Oklahoma

We can help with rehoming services!

Have a horse, mule or donkey who needs rehoming or requires euthanasia? We can help.

The ASPCA® Regional Support Center is a pilot program for equine owners in the Oklahoma City area.

The first no-cost, open-door Center in Oklahoma offers:
- A safe place for equine owners to relinquish horses who need rehoming
- Euthanasia and related services for equines in need of those resources

Contact the Support Center
Call 405-423-1461 or email equinesupport@aspca.org
aspca.org/equinesupport

If your equine is located in Oklahoma, Logan, Kingfisher, Caddo, Grady, McClellan, Cleveland, Pottawatomie, or Lincoln county, contact us to schedule a free appointment.

Latest Research on Equine Health

Owner Reported Clinical Signs and Management-Related Factors in Horses Radiographed for Intestinal Sand Accumulation
Sand accumulation in horses is highly dependent on geography, and can result in colic, poor performance, weight loss and diarrhea. 447 owners in Finland responded to a survey to describe the management factors and behavior of horses with significant sand accumulation on radiographs. Most frequently, horses with significant or larger sand accumulation had a history of colic and poor performance, followed by diarrhea and then sensitivity to touch of the abdominal wall. There was no difference in the housing or management of the horses on the incidence of sand accumulation, but researchers did find "greedy" horses that cleaned up all of their roughage not surprisingly had larger accumulations of sand. Interestingly, more dominant horses had less sand accumulation, presumably because they didn't have to clean up the scraps left behind as do their submissive counterparts. So what does this mean? Pay attention to alterations in behavior beyond just colic and diarrhea when suspecting sand accumulation. Availability of forage such that horses do not have to ingest all that remains may also be helpful in preventing sand accumulation.


Bits and Pieces

OSUHorse Webinar Wednesdays

Join us on the first Wednesday of the month, except for August, for a free webinar series on equine health, research updates and youth activities.
August webinar: August 21 at 6 pm. Dr. Megan Williams, equine surgeon and lameness specialist discusses equine arthritis and its treatment.

Join Zoom Meeting
https://dasn.zoom.us/j/255782418

Joining via a zoom link allows participants to directly ask questions.

Archived webinars can be found at OSUHorse.com
Winter Horse Care
End of Life Decisions
Internal Parasite Management
Breeding Soundness Exams
Research Updates from the 2019 Equine Science Society symposium
Sportsmanship in Youth Events

Upcoming Events and Industry Updates
Continuing Education:

Youth Events

October 4-6 - Oklahoma State 4-H Horse Show at the Tulsa State Fair. Friday will feature the Ranch Horse events, Saturday will be hunters and speed events, and Sunday halter and western events.

November 9 - Horse Science Academy
This one day STEM camp is designed for high school age youth. This years topics include strategic deworming, fecal egg counts, physical exams, BCS and weight assessment, forage analysis and digestive anatomy. Cost of attendance is $40 and enrollment is limited to the first 40 youth to register. Registration opens August 15. [http://osuhorse.okstate.edu/4-h-and-youth-activities/horse-science-academy-1](http://osuhorse.okstate.edu/4-h-and-youth-activities/horse-science-academy-1)
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