



News Bits

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Mid-Michigan Equine Services, PLLC

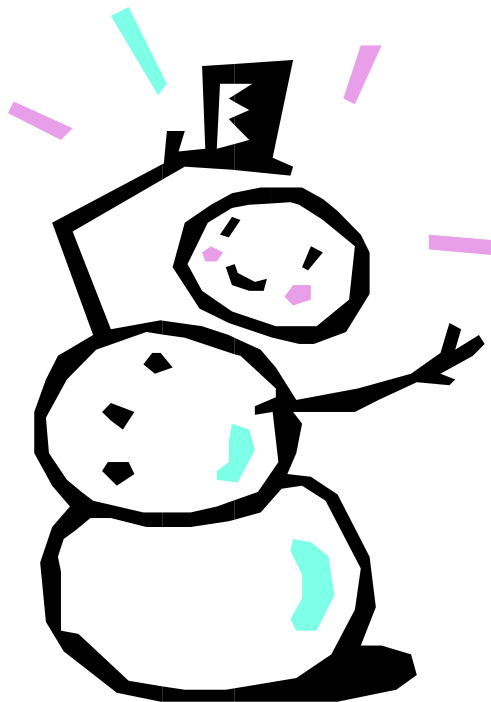
Laura Chamberlain, DVM January/February 2008

Winter Health Tips

Winter has hit full force! Here are a few tips to help your horses stay healthy and happy this winter:

- Always provide access to fresh, ice-free water. Heated water tanks or buckets are ideal, as unheated tanks freeze too quickly on the coldest days.
- If heat is not available, horse should be provided with as much freshly drawn water as they want every 6-8 hours.
- Most horses grow a thick enough coat to keep them warm in the coldest of temperatures, but only if they are dry and they can get away from the wind
- Very old, very young, thin horses, or ones prone to colic may benefit from an extra layer of warmth provided by a blanket.
- Monitor blanketed

horses closely on warmer days.. It is more dangerous for a horse to get overheated than to get cold (and if a horse sweats under their blanket they may get chilled when the temperature drops).



- Providing extra hay helps a horse maintain a warmer body temperature. It is a common misconception that grain or oil will keep a horse warmer, but they do provide extra calories that are burned up in cold weather!
- Horses are most likely to colic when there is a big change in temperature. Most of these colics are impaction-type colics. To minimize the risk, encourage extra water consumption when a big change in weather is forecasted. The easiest way is by adding 1-2oz. of table salt to their grain, or for particularly sensitive horses, giving them a "salt slurry" when needed.
- Remember to give you horse extra time to warm up before exercise, and be sure they are cooled down completely and dry before turning them back out or blanketing them.

Common Winter Ailments

- *Colic (usually impactions)*
- *Respiratory diseases (colds)*
- *Skin Infections (from moisture trapped in long hair coats, or under blankets)*
- *Hoof Abscesses*
- *Sole Bruises (from frozen ground)*
- *Sprains/Strains*
- *Hypothermia in horses less than 1 year old, or significantly underweight horses*

Dentist Days

Many of you have already met Kenny Dwyer, the Certified Equine Dental Technician I work with. But if you have not let me introduce you to him!

Kenny has been performing Equine Dentistry for almost 20 years now. Based out of Illinois, Kenny works on

horses in Illinois, Iowa, Wisconsin, Indiana, and Michigan. I first met Kenny while working in Chicago, where Kenny and his family performed all the dentistry on the practice's elite clientele.

I have managed to convince him to come help us out here in Michigan, as I don't

trust my own horses' teeth to anyone else!

Kenny comes to Michigan about once a month to perform dentistry with me.

The next scheduled dentist day is **Saturday, February 2nd**. Please call if you would like to be added to the list for this month or next!

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International League for the Protection of Horses - MI

I have recently joined the board of an equine welfare group called the International League for the Protection of Horses - Michigan. This group does not operate like many traditional rescues in that they prefer to work with owners to educate them on horse welfare first, before recommending horse are removed.

Unfortunately, the closing of all the slaughter plants in the US, the rising costs of hay and grain, and the poor economy in Michigan has left the group swamped with calls for help and horses in need.

Most recently ILPH - MI was asked by the Delta County Sheriff, Animal Control, and Prosecutor to assist with a case involving 50 Arabians in the upper peninsula. At the time of this writing, ILPH is

sending a team of officers to assess the situation and be an advocate for not only the horses, but also the owner.

In this day and age it's important for horse owners to stick together to ensure the welfare of our animals, but also to educate the non-horse public about normal horse care. The average person doesn't realize they aren't just great big dogs!



I am proud to be associated with a group that is looking out for horse welfare AND horse owners. It's refreshing to see an equine welfare organization that takes a common sense approach to animal ownership, not an extremist "animal rights" type stance.

If you would like to learn more about ILPH - MI please visit their website at www.ilph-mi.org, or call them at 517-449-3156.

They are currently raffling off a Cadillac CTS (or \$30,000) as a fundraiser. If you would like to buy tickets please call Dr. Laura or see their website for a list of locations nearest you!

Horse Boarding, Foaling Services, and Hay Sales

We are finally getting the indoor arena cleared out, so horse boarding is available again at Watch Eye Corral (my fiancé, Prentice's, barn where we live).

A limited number of stalls are available at this time. Pasture board is currently full, but more spots may open up in the spring.

We also offer foaling services for your expectant

- **Stall Board**
- **Pasture Board**
- **Foaling Services**
- **Hay and Straw Sales**

mares. This includes a webcam stall and a closed circuit camera for more thorough supervision. If you would like your mare bred on her foal heat I can take care of that while she's here. Please call early to reserve a space.

There are no farm calls for horses stabled at WEC, and reduced emergency fees (for most situations). Mares here on foaling services do not have emergency fees for foaling.

Where safer to keep your horse than at your vet's house?

Call Laura at the office 517-651-1234, or Prentice on his cell at 517-420-6099.

Prentice also has hay (2nd/3rd cutting squares, 1st and 2nd /3rd cutting rounds), and straw (rounds only) available. Please call him for more details on the hay since I can never remember!

Dr. Laura's Incident

I am sure many of you have heard by now that I injured my hand right before Christmas. I lost the tip of one of my fingers, but I have recovered quickly and am back to full work.

A special thanks to my assistant Missy Cross, who had to pick up the slack while I was injured, and to all the clients that were so patient and helpful while Missy had to cope with a really short learning curve!

I have performed several surgeries and other tasks since the incident, and although my future as a hand model is ruined, it does not seem that the injury will affect my ability to take care of your animals.

I really appreciate all the people who called to check in on me during the whole ordeal and offered their assistance.



I also want to thank Dr. Katie Collier for covering emergencies on such short notice!



Where I'll Be:

I will be out of town a few times in the next few months. During those times I will still be checking my voice mail as often as possible, and Dr. Katie Collier will be covering for any urgent emergencies.

I will be gone on the following dates:

- Saturday, February 16—Thursday February 21: Western Veterinary Conference
- Friday, February 29—Sunday, March 2: At my cousin's wedding in Florida

In order to keep on track and not get backed up during that time I will be doing regular appointments on Saturday February 23.

Dr. Collier's number
for emergencies on
these days is:
517-285-7114



Discount Dewormers

I have several different dewormers that I had purchased in bulk and received a good price on. If you would like to buy any of the follow give me a call (you can swing by and pick it up, or if I'm going to be out your way I can drop it off).

Once these quantities are sold out I wont be able to offer them at as good of a price, so buy now for the best deal!

- Zimectrin Gold (ivermectin/ praziquantel): \$10.50
- Eqvalan (ivermectin):\$6
- Strongid (pyrantel):\$7.00
- Anthelcide (oxibendazole):\$6.00
- Equell (ivermectin, treats up to 1320lbs):\$6.50

I also carry the following dewormers, but they are at regular price:

- Equimax (ivermectin/ praziquantel):\$15
- Quest Plus (moxidectin/ praziquantel):\$12.50
- Panacur PowerPac (fenbendazole, 5 tubes): \$51
- Strongid C 2X Daily Dewormer (50lbs):\$200 (10lbs):\$42

Don't Forget the Little Guys!

Did you know Dr. Laura does dogs and cats too?

I can do house calls for most problems, or you can schedule an appointment at my home. This works especially well for pets that get nervous at the regular vet's office.

I also have a full service surgery room set up to take care of your spays, neuters, dentals, and most other needs.

Take care of your horses' shots and

your pets' all in one trip! I also stock heartworm, flea and tick, and deworming medications. If you know you will need some please let me know when you schedule your appointment and I will make sure I have enough of the appropriate size on the truck.



Heartworms tests can be done onsite,

fecal and urine tests are run the same day, and most other bloodwork results are back the following morning.

Just ask and I'll be happy to let you know how I can help with ALL of you four-legged friends!

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**Providing quality veterinary care to
the Mid-Michigan horse community.**

We're on the Web!
www.midmichiganequine.com