

Spring is Vaccine Season



Vaccinations are an important part of your horse's routine health care. At Mid-Michigan Equine Services Dr. Laura worked hard to develop a vaccination protocol that provides maximum protection without exposing the horse to unnecessary or excessive injections.

The common vaccines used in this program include:

Eastern and Western Encephalitis, Tetanus, West Nile Virus: EWT-WN

Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis (Equine Herpes Virus types 1 and 4): Inf-EHV1/4

Rabies virus: Rabies

Dr. Laura strongly recommends Rabies vaccines for all horses in Michigan. Rabies cases have been on the rise over that last few years, and there have been several rabies positive horses in the surrounding counties.

Dr. Laura also recommends all horses be vaccinated against West Nile. Extensive research has shown it to be completely safe in all horses (including mares and stallions), but since some clients have been concerned about fertility issues with the West Nile vaccine, we do carry the new Intervet vaccine that is completely unrelated.

Vaccines used in specific circumstances include:

Eastern and Western Encephalitis, West Nile Virus: EW-WN (no tetanus)

Viral Abortion (Equine Herpes Virus type 1): Pneumobort-K (pregnant mares only)

Strangles Intramuscular Vaccine: Strangles IM (pregnant mares only)

Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA): For breeding animals only under strict guidelines

Streptococcus Equi (Strangles) Intranasal vaccine: Strangles

Erlichia Ristacci (Potomac Horse Fever): PHF

Dr. Laura has moved PHF into the optional column this year, due to poor results with the vaccine last year. It is still very safe, but whether or not it is helpful remains to be seen.

Although some stables require strangles vaccination, Dr. Laura recommends it be used with caution. Strangles vaccines have the highest complication rates, and can even be fatal if the horse has already been exposed.

Adult Horses

- Spring – EWT-WN, Inf-EHV1/4, Rabies, Strangles*, PHF*
- Mid-Summer - PHF*
- Fall (for high risk horses) – Inf-EHV1/4, Strangles*

Horses traveling south in the winter/early spring should receive an EW-WN booster in the fall at least 3 weeks prior to traveling

Foal Vaccinations

- 5 months-EWT-WN, EVH1/4
- 6 months-EWT-WN, EVH1/4, rabies, PHF*, strangles*
- 7 months - EWT-WN, EVH1/4, rabies, PHF*, strangles*
- 9 months –Influenza
- 10 months –Influenza
- 1 year - EWTWN, EHV1/4-Influenza, strangles*, rabies, PHF*

Foals less than 9 months should NOT receive Influenza

Broodmare Vaccinations

- 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation: EHV1 (Pneumabort-K)
- 4-6 weeks before foaling: EWTWN, EHV1/4-Influenza, strangles (IM)*, rabies, PHF*

*=optional vaccines

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Common Spring Ailments:

- Colic during big weather changes (or sudden access to new grass)
- Laminitis/Founder from new grass (in sensitive horses)
- Rain Rot (from wet winter hair that hasn't shed yet)
- Thrush and Scratches (from all the mud)
- Sore tendons (from deep, sticky mud)

Deworming: To Rotate or Not To Rotate?

Rotating dewormers is a hot topic these days. Resistance to Avermectins (ivermectin and moxidectin) is extremely uncommon so far (though a few cases of resistant pinworms have been reported in adult horses and resistant roundworms have been seen in young horses on some large breeding farms). This is the only class of dewormer that is effective against bots, so it is acceptable to just use ivermectin (and the occasional ivermectin/praziquantel combination for tapeworms). Periodic fecal checks help confirm that resistance has not developed.

Some people advocate rotating dewormers so that resistant parasites can not develop. The dilemma is if dewormers are rotated too often, you can actually develop "super resistant" parasites that are resistant to more than one class of dewormer. Recent studies suggest that if you are going to rotate dewormers, it should be done on a yearly basis (ivermectin one year, pyrantel the next, etc). Because only Avermectins kill bots, you would still need to use one of those products twice yearly.

There is no good answer to the rotation debate. Regardless of what you do, the most important way to avoid the development of resistance is to use the full dose of dewormer recommended. Using half-doses should only be done in extreme situations (when recommended by a vet) and should **not** be repeated. It is also important to avoid underestimating the weight of your horses. A weight tape is a cheap purchase to help with a better estimation, and when in doubt, guess high. Also, try to ensure your horse receives the full dose and doesn't spit half of it out on the ground. All the dewormers on the market have a wide margin of safety for overdosing in adult horses (moxidectin has a more narrow range, so should be used cautiously in young horses, small ponies and minis).

How does Dr. Laura deworm?

- On adult horses I use ivermectin every other month. Twice yearly I use Equimax, Zimectrin Gold, ComboCare or Quest Plus.
- If they start to rub their tails I use Anthelcide 4 weeks apart for 1 or 2 doses.
- On foals I use pyrantel for the first 2 dewormings (at 1 and 2 months), then ivermectin at 4 months, and pyrantel at 6 months. After that they can go on an adult schedule



Save a horse, Win a Caddy!

The International League for the Protection of Horses - Michigan is raffling off a brand new, 2008 Cadillac CTS (or \$30,000 cash). All proceeds go directly to benefit one of the many horses in their care or for owner education and awareness programs throughout Michigan.

Only 6,000 tickets will be sold and there are 2 runner-up prizes (\$1,000 and \$500). Get your tickets now while they last!

The drawing will be held during their annual Derby Day celebration (see below), but you need not be present to win.

Complete details and rules are available on their website at www.ilph-mi.org

Tickets can be purchased on line, from Dr. Laura, or at one of many mid-Michigan locations (any Soldan's store, Tom's Western Store, The

Wire Horse, Tackhouse Treasures, Young Cadillac in Owosso, and many more!)

Thanks so much to all the clients who have already purchased tickets to help support horses in need!



2008 Derby Day Run for the Rescue

On Saturday, May 3, 2008, the day of the Kentucky Derby, the ILPH-MI will hold their second annual fundraising event, the **ILPH-MI Derby Day-Run for the Rescue**, at the Kellogg Hotel and Conference Center on beautiful Michigan State University Campus in East Lansing, Michigan. The event will start at 4pm, they will watch the Kentucky Derby and have food and

drinks. But the highlight of the evening will include both a silent and a live auction. Their plan is for this to be an annual fundraising party and their goal is to raise resources to help horses in need. Madison, the ILPH-MI official mascot, will attend the event as a guest of honor.

This year they will be adding the drawing for the Cadillac

CTS, and a Derby Day Hat Contest!

Everyone is welcome to attend. If you would like to purchase tickets (\$30 each, or 2 for \$50), please contact Dr. Laura, or go to the ILPH website at www.ilph-mi.org

Foaling Info

Foaling season can be exciting and stressful. Here are a few tips to help the process go more smoothly. For a more complete list check the website under "Information" for the Expectant Mare Timeline. If you don't have internet access call Dr.

Laura and she'll send you a copy!

Before-hand care for the mare:

- Mares should have all their vaccines 4-6 weeks before foaling to ensure the foal gets the protective antibodies it needs.
- Mares should be dewormed 1 month before foaling and 24 hours after foaling to reduce shedding to the foal

- Mares should be at the foaling location 1 month prior to foaling

The post-foaling checkup should be done 12-24hrs after foaling if everything went normally. This allows enough time for antibodies to show up in the foal's bloodstream, and lets the mare and foal bond better before they get too stressed.

The foal exam includes:

- Checking blood to ensure enough antibodies were absorbed from the milk
- Checking for congenital problems like hernias, heart

murmurs, cleft palate, contracted tendons, etc.

The mare exam includes:

- Checking for foaling trauma
- Checking milk production



Dentist Days For March and April

March: Saturday March 15

April: Saturday, April 12

Save time and money by scheduling your spring shots and Coggins on dentist days!

Please call the office to get added to the list!

Dates are subject to change

Breeding Services

For Mares:

- Artificial Insemination (cooled)
- Live Cover Assistance
- AI : Frozen (in house only)
- Embryo Transfer (in house)
- Fertility Problem Workups
- Breeding Soundness Exams

- Caslick's Surgery
- Hormone Therapy for ovulation timing
- Heat prevention in the performance mare

For Pregnant Mares:

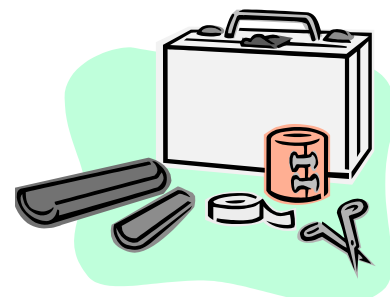
- Foaling services
- High-risk mare monitoring
- Foal heat breeding

For Stallions:

- Semen Collection / Evaluation
- Semen Shipping / Freezing
- Breeding Soundness Exams
- Infertility Workups
- Assistance with breeding farm management to improve conception rates

First Aid Kit for General Horse Emergencies

- A stethoscope for checking hearth rate
- A thermometer (digital ones are fine)
- Bandage material (cotton or quilted leg wraps, and VetRap or stable bandages)
- Gauze pads
- Sharp scissors
- Clippers
- Mild disinfectant soap and solution (Chlorhexidine scrub and solution, or Iodine scrub and solution)
- Saline Solution
- Latex Gloves
- Duct Tape (don't leave home without it :^)
- Phenylbutazone (Bute) paste, tablets, or powder
- Hoof Pick
- New syringes (for giving injections or flushing wounds)
- Old syringes (cleaned) for giving oral medications
- Banamine paste or injectable
- Antibiotic ointment (furazone, etc.)



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



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

Short on Cash? Now Offering **CareCredit**

Emergencies happen, and with horses the bills can add up quick (especially in the spring). To help you provide your horse with the best care possible, Mid-Michigan Equine is now offering CareCredit.

CareCredit is essentially a medical bills loan. With plans ranging from 3 months interest free, to several years at an affordable rate, CareCredit has a solution for you!

CareCredit offers 24hour, over-the-phone approval so you'll have an answer right then (even if your horse decides to colic at 2am on a holiday weekend!)

Care Credit isn't just for emergencies! You can pay for your vaccines, dentistry, dog and cat medicines, or anything else with CareCredit, and spread your payments out over the year. CareCredit also works for your own personal medical expenses at participating providers.

Because Care Credit is limited to medical expenses, they are able to extend credit to people that might not otherwise be eligible. CareCredit has a 60-75% acceptance rate, and you can pre-apply online at www.carecredit.com!

If you would like to use CareCredit on a regular visit please give Dr. Laura a call to get preapproved.