



SPRING NEWSLETTER

708 N. Main Street | Bellevue, ID | 208-788-1465

Fecal Week 2019

Fecal Week will return during the 3rd week of August, so mark your calendars for discount fecal egg counts.

Online Bill Pay

We are excited to announce the launch of our secure online bill pay portal. Visit our website at www.sawtoothequine.com to pay your bill safely and efficiently from the comfort of your home.

Billing Changes

In order to decrease our costs, we will begin invoicing at the time of service and no longer carrying balances on client accounts. Monthly auto pay is a great option if you prefer, so please call the office to set this up. We will also begin charging interest to those accounts which are carrying a balance. Please call the office with questions or concerns. We thank you for your continued support of our practice and understanding while we implement these changes.



So you want to breed your mare?

Before you breed your mare, there are several items that must be worked out for a successful pregnancy and foaling. First, why do you want to breed your mare, and is there a market for the foal? With so many unwanted horses in the US right now, careful selection of

breeding is important in order to avoid contributing to the overpopulation of horses. Additionally, breeding is expensive! Initial breeding costs, foaling costs, and then the actual foal can add up. Be sure you have adequate funds set aside for expected as well as unexpected costs.

Next, a breeding soundness exam prior to actual breeding season is essential. This enables us to evaluate your mare's reproductive tract for issues that could complicate breeding and foaling. Unlike dogs, horses can have an infected uterus with no outward clinical signs, which if left untreated, will prevent pregnancy. A complete exam, cytology and culture of the mare's reproductive tract at the beginning of the season will save lots of time and money during breeding season .

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Equine Infectious Anemia and the Coggins Test

Equine Infectious Anemia is a viral disease of horses, donkeys, and zebras. It can be transmitted through blood, saliva, and milk, but biting flies are the most common cause of disease spread. The fly harbors the virus and then spreads it to the next horse that it bites. There is no cure for this disease and once the horse is infected it remains that way for life.

Clinical signs of EIA can be subtle and varied. In fact, most horses that are infected show no outward signs of disease. In the acute stage, horses present with fever, anemia, and swollen legs. The subacute stage often has similar signs as the acute stage but less dramatic. The last stage of the disease is the chronic stage; at this point the horse does not usually have any serious clinical signs. These horses are the carriers of the disease and can also relapse into the acute stage at any time.

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Breeding your mare continued

A systemic physical exam is also critical. Horses with less than ideal body conditions (too fat or too thin) or other systemic health problems, such as Cushing's disease, will have trouble getting bred and these issues must be addressed before breeding.

Once your mare has been checked out and is ready to go, it is time for logistics. Will you be breeding live cover, or with fresh or frozen semen? What is the stallion's collection schedule and availability? All of these options mean different things for broodmare management and your veterinary team, so having a clear picture of how this will work is key. Careful monitoring of the mare's cycle is essential. Timing of ovulation must coincide with semen shipment for a successful breeding.

Following these key steps early in the spring can help pave the way for a smoother, more successful breeding season.

Questions? Contact us so we can plan a successful breeding season for you and your mare.



Coggins test continued

Although the disease as mostly been eradicated, small pockets of it still appear. Just this month (Feb 2019), a horse tested positive at Gulfstream Park in Miami, Florida. In 2018, a herd of 22 horses was found positive in Montana. Since there is no vaccine and no cure, positive horses are usually euthanized to prevent the spread to other horses.

Another four horses tested positive in December 2018 in Colorado. A positive horse can be kept in lifelong quarantine as long as it is over 200 yards away from any other horse. Just remember that horses are herd animals and it can be very stressful for a horse to be alone for his or her whole life.

Although getting a Coggins test each year may seem like a pain, it is actually a very important nationwide movement for the health of all horses. Pre planning for this test will make your spring and summer travel season run more smoothly. **Remember that when the office or the lab is very busy, it can take up to five days to get your paperwork back!**

Did you Know?

Both Dr. Crawford and Dr. Wright are trained and certified by the International Veterinary Chiropractic Association. Chiropractic is an essential tool in keeping your horse sound and healthy.

Laser Therapy

Our portable laser therapy unit can be combined with chiropractic, acupuncture, and soundness exams to keep your horse comfortable and happy.

Spring Exams and Vaccinations

Even with all of the snow outside, it is time to start thinking about your horse's spring exam, vaccinations, Coggins test, and dentals. Reminders will be going out as needed, but remember to schedule early!