

COMSTOCK EQUINE HOSPITAL

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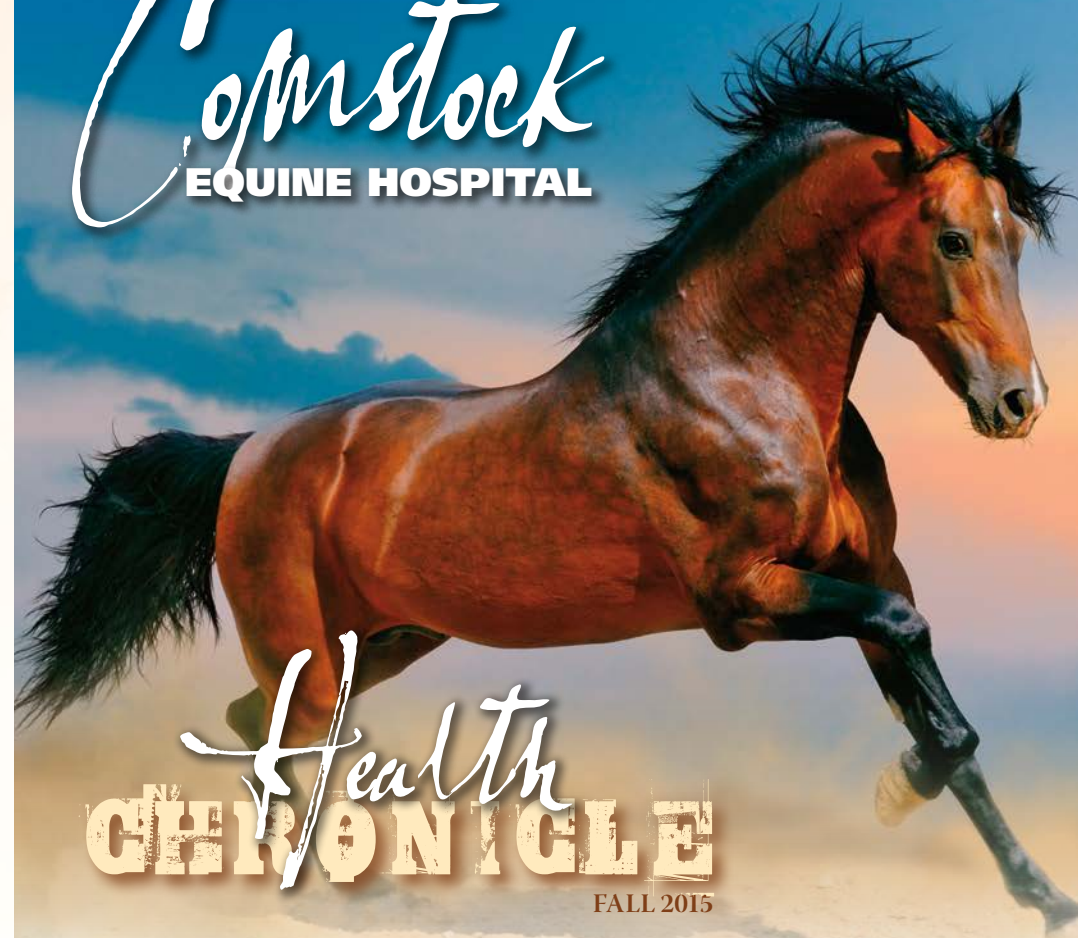
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Health
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Health
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FALL 2015

PLATINUM
PERFORMANCE[®]
Where good nutrition meets good medicine™



Fall Client Seminar: Equine Nutrition
Sponsored by Platinum Performance
Wednesday October 7th at 6pm
Comstock Equine Hospital

We are so excited to team up with Platinum Performance for this fall's client seminar. In addition to an informative lecture on equine nutrition, there will also be information about Platinum Performance's eQCO Colic Assurance Plan. Platinum Performance will also provide free goodie bags for attendees. Dinner will be provided. Please RSVP by phone (775) 849-0120 or email office@comstockequine.com by Monday October 5th. 🐾

Welcome Dr. Copeland!

Dr. Christy Copeland is a native of Winton, California. She received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine from University California Davis and is starting her year long equine medicine and surgery internship with us. Her professional interests include sports medicine, neonatology, dentistry, and small ruminants. In her free time, Dr. Copeland enjoys hiking, snowboarding, and trail riding. Welcome Dr. Copeland! 🐾



Hoof Abscesses: A Scary Scenario with a Good Prognosis

Christy A. Copeland DVM

I can still remember the fear I felt as a child when my pony Lenny became acutely non weight bearing lame. I had gone out to pasture to catch him for an afternoon ride, and he came hopping up. In tears, I ran to my father who is a veterinarian. Lenny was quickly diagnosed with a hoof abscess, and I felt a rush of relief. This is not an uncommon scenario for horse owners as hoof abscesses can present rapidly and can cause a completely sound horse to become acutely lame.

These abscesses form as bacteria enter the interior hoof structures from a weak area of the hoof wall/sole junction. This creates a buildup of inflammation and infection which the body's defenses attempt to wall off. Buildup of white blood cells creates an intense pressure due to the rigidity of the hoof wall. This is often times very painful and can cause a sudden onset of lameness. Degree of lameness may vary depending on the severity and location of the abscess and may present as lower grade lameness. Other clinical signs you may observe include: warm or hot hoof, fever, cellulitis (swelling), unwillingness to bear weight, sweating, trembling, increased digital pulses, or resting or pointing the leg.

Certain conditions can predispose your horse to a hoof abscess. This includes alternating dry and wet conditions. The dryness causes the hoof to harden and shrink often creating cracks for bacteria to enter. When conditions become wet again dirty muck can enter the cracks and create an abscess. Penetrating wounds from rocks, glass, horse shoe nails placed too close to the sensitive part of the hoof or other sharp objects also create a potential space for bacteria to invade and abscess. Ground conditions that cause sole bruising can predispose to an abscess. This is because bacteria can enter the bruise through a small external crack or from within the blood stream. The sole bruise is a great environment for bacterial proliferation because blood is a good food source for bacteria.

To diagnosis this condition, your veterinarian will need to locate the cause of the pain and rule out other problems. Once called out to visit your horse, a physical exam will be performed. It is likely that the hoof will need to be cleaned and pared out; sometimes it is necessary to remove the shoe if one is in place. Your veterinarian can use a tool called hoof testers that apply focal pressure to help expose painful areas of the hoof. A radiograph may be taken to evaluate severity and see if the bony structures are involved.

Once an abscess is diagnosed, your veterinarian will be able to provide appropriate treatment. This usually involves opening the abscess to establish drainage. Applying a poultice bandage and using foot soaks will help to soften the sole and encourage rupture and drainage if it cannot be established initially.

Occasionally a simple hoof abscess may turn into a more serious injury. This is suspected when a hoof abscess does not respond to treatment and your horse remains lame. When this occurs, your veterinarian will want to take a radiograph to access the bony structures. This is because the abscess could have penetrated the coffin bone causing an infection called osteomyelitis. Surgery is required to debride the infected portion of the bone and soft tissues. Delayed or impaired healing can also be a due to Equine Cushings (a metabolic disorder that reduces the body's ability to heal). If suspected, a blood test may be run.

Good hoof care is the key to the prevention of hoof abscesses. Frequent cleaning to remove dirt and debris is important along with routine farrier work to provide good hoof balance. For example, your farrier may apply shoes to protect a horse that is prone to sole bruising. Frequent trimmings allow for the formation of a healthy sole hoof wall junction.

Overall, hoof abscesses carry a good prognosis with a quick recovery when diagnosed and treated early and appropriately. 🐾

Applying a Poultice Bandage

Elisabeth M. Lau DVM



Applying a poultice bandage can help soften the sole of the hoof and allow an abscess to drain.



Materials needed for a poultice bandage are an Animalintex Poultice Pad (if unavailable, a diaper may substitute), Magna Epsom Salt Paste, brown gauze or Vetrap, and duct tape. Lay out the duct tape in an alternating, overlapping pattern. You will want to make a square big enough to wrap around the hoof. Cut slits at each diagonal to make it easier to wrap the tape around the hoof. If you have an easy boot available, skip this step.



Animalintex Poultice pads have made soaking hooves in a bucket of warm Epsom salt water a thing of the past. Cut the pad into thirds. Take one of the thirds, wet it, and then wring it out. Put Magna Epsom Salt Paste on the abscess or directly on the Animalintex pad. If an Animalintex pad is unavailable, use a wetted diaper.



Apply the Animalintex pad (plastic side towards ground and away from the hoof) and secure with brown gauze. If using Vetrap, be sure to wrap only on the pad or diaper and do not go above the hoof onto the coronet band.



Place the duct tape square onto the hoof. Again take care to not go over the coronet band. If the duct tape square is too big, it may need to be trimmed. If you have an easy boot, place the boot over the wrapped animalintex pad instead of applying the duct tape square.



Use Elastikon Tape to secure the top of the duct tape layer to the hair to prevent dirt and debris from getting down into the poultice bandage. Gently lay the tape when applying as it can constrict blood flow if applied too tight.

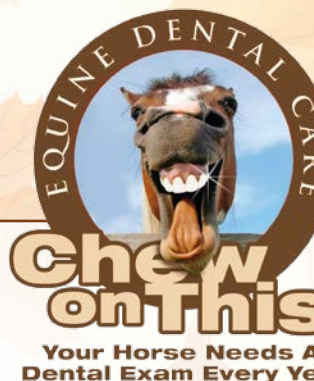
Repeat every one to two days until the abscess has completely drained. 🐾

FALL VACCINE CLINIC SCHEDULE

| Area | Day | Date |
|---------------------------|-------|--------|
| Washoe Valley | Sat | 12-Sep |
| Washoe Valley | Tues | 15-Sep |
| Washoe Valley | Wed | 30-Sep |
| Washoe Valley | Thurs | 29-Oct |
| SW Reno | Wed | 16-Sep |
| SW Reno | Sat | 19-Sep |
| SW Reno | Tues | 13-Oct |
| SW Reno | Sat | 24-Oct |
| Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley | Tues | 29-Sep |
| Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley | Wed. | 7-Oct |
| Mt. Rose/Pleasant Valley | Sat. | 17-Oct |
| Lemmon/Antelope Valley | Thurs | 17-Sep |
| Lemmon/Antelope Valley | Tues | 29-Sep |
| Lemmon/Antelope Valley | Sun | 4-Oct |
| Spanish Springs | Tues | 15-Sep |
| Spanish Springs | Wed | 23-Sep |
| Spanish Springs | Sat | 26-Sep |
| North Valleys | Thurs | 24-Sep |
| North Valleys | Tues | 6-Oct |
| Golden/Sun Valley | Wed | 16-Sep |
| Golden/Sun Valley | Thurs | 15-Oct |
| Carson/Dayton | Tues | 22-Sep |
| Carson/Dayton | Thurs | 15-Oct |
| Toll Rd/VC Highlands | Thurs | 24-Sep |
| Toll Rd/VC Highlands | Wed | 7-Oct |
| West Reno/Verdi-Mogul | Tues | 22-Sep |
| West Reno/Verdi-Mogul | Thurs | 1-Oct |
| Palomino Valley | Mon | 5-Oct |
| Gardnerville | Mon | 5-Oct |
| Minden | Mon | 28-Sep |
| Stagecoach/Silver Springs | Mon | 28-Sep |

| Price List | |
|------------------------|-------|
| Farm Call | 15 |
| Physical/Wellness Exam | 15 |
| West Nile - EWT | 39 |
| Flu Rhino | 29 |
| Strangles I.N. | 35 |
| Rabies | 21 |
| Deworm | 17-24 |
| Deworm (Foal/Mini) | 14 |
| Fecal Exam | 23 |
| Clean Sheath | 30 |
| Sedation- Starts At | 45 |
| Coggins | 32 |

A 10% discount will be applied to owners with 5 or more horses, and the farm call fee will be waived. Not applicable with any other discount. **Manufacturer Guarantee: The vaccine company will pay for diagnostic & treatment costs up to \$5000.00 for your horse if he or she has been vaccinated by one of our doctors and becomes infected by West Nile, Influenza, Tetanus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis and/or Western Equine Encephalitis within one year of vaccination. This guarantee excludes Strangles and Rhino virus. **



Chew on This!
Your Horse Needs A Dental Exam Every Year

\$150.00 Dentistry Pricing
We are now offering our "Dental Special" pricing of \$150 plus sedatives all year long! Sheath cleanings may be added for the discounted price of \$30.

\$100.00
We are also introducing the Dental Health Maintenance Plan. Any horse that has dentistry performed annually will receive the discounted price of \$100 plus sedatives. This plan is ideal for horses that require more frequent dentistry.

To best service our clients, all of our doctors have received extensive training and continuing education opportunities in the field of equine dentistry.

The discounted price includes:

- 🐾 Sedation Examination
- 🐾 Full Mouth Speculum Examination
- 🐾 Dental Equilibration (performed with hand and power tools)