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**SPRING CHECK LISTS  
FECAL EGG COUNTS**



**EQUINE DENTISTRY**




**EHV /  
Rhinopneumonitis**

# EQUINE SPRING NEWSLETTER

## Fecal Sample for Egg Count

Fecal exams with egg counts provide a lot of value to your horses and the pastures where they live. First, by screening manure from each horse for parasite eggs we can determine what types of worms, if any, are present in the horse’s intestines. Most of the eggs we find are strongyles, but occasionally we find different types of round worms, tape worms, or coccidia. Each type of parasite is treated differently, so it’s nice to know what each horse has before selecting deworming medication. Next, the number of eggs being shed by each horse can impact deworming decisions. For horses that are shedding few or no eggs, deworming may not be necessary. The opposite of this would be horses that are shedding large numbers of eggs and require more frequent deworming with multiple products. The main take-home about egg counts and dewormers is that on average, you will spend the same or less money by doing an egg count on each horse prior to deworming as you would if you used a blanket approach and dewormed every horse using the same products and timing. Money spent on the egg count will be recovered by saving money on tubes for horses that don’t need them. The other good thing about this comes down to environmental stewardship. Deworming drugs that make it all the way through the GI tract and into manure can kill non-parasitic invertebrates that live in the soil of your pastures and lots. If you do a fecal egg count on each horse you can make an informed decision on deworming and possibly reduce the amount of pharmaceutically active compounds your horses and pastures are exposed to.



Spring Checklist

- Fecal sample for egg count
- Vaccinations
- Wellness exam
- Walk pastures to look for dangerous objects that may harm horses
- Examine stalls and sheds for nails or jagged metal

# Equine Dentistry

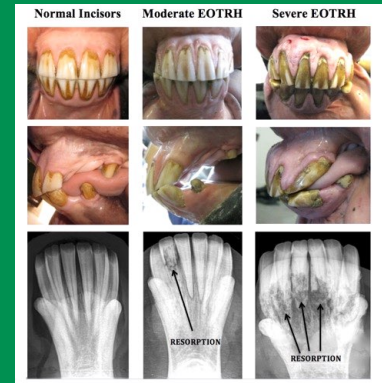
Horses' teeth were developed for grazing. However, humans have greatly modified the equine diet and feed schedule. We now ask more from our horses, and start working them at a younger age. Regular dental care will make your horse more comfortable, able to use feed more efficiently, and perform better.

Horses have two sets of teeth, with the deciduous teeth (first set) fully erupting by 8 months old. The adult, or permanent teeth, start replacing the baby teeth around 2.5 years old. By 5 years old, the majority of horses have all of their permanent teeth. Mares have between 36-40 teeth, whereas geldings or stallions have 40, as they are likely to have canines.

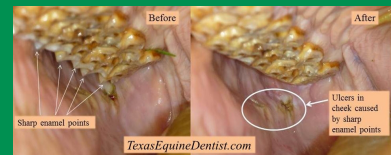
Dental problems in horses can be mild to severe. Routine floating removes horses' sharp enamel points that form on the outer edges of the upper teeth and inside edges of the lower teeth grow. Sharp points cause sore spots on the inside of the cheek which make the horse painful while eating. Wolf teeth interfere with the bit, retained caps (baby teeth that are not shed), hooks, abnormal wear patterns ("wave mouth" and "step mouth"), periodontal disease, tooth fractures, and diastema (gaps in-between teeth) are just a few of the common problems equine veterinarians see.

Most horse owners are aware of the warning signs associated with dental discomfort. Signs of possible dental issues include: dropping feed, weight loss, odor or discharge coming from the mouth or nostrils, head tilt, excessive salivation or "rolling" of the tongue, large undigested feed particles in the manure, and poor performance (hanging on the bit, resistance to turning or bending). However, even if a horse is not displaying obvious signs of mouth pain, routine, thorough dental exams are still essential. Just because your horse eats without obvious difficulty or has not lost weight, it is still important to have your veterinarian perform regular oral exams. Horses tend to adapt to a level of pain so it can be difficult to know when there is a problem until it is severe.

Certain age groups or performance stages require special attention. It is common to see young horses with sharp enamel points or retained caps. Floating and removing unshed caps will make them more comfortable while they are starting training. Senior horses (17+ years)



**NORMAL INCISORS AND INCISORS WITH EOTRH**



**SHARP ENAMEL POINTS CAUSING ULCERS**



**DIASTEMA (UNIONVILLE EQUINE)**



**ABNORMAL MOLAR WEAR**

experience a higher risk for periodontal disease and malocclusion. Equine Odonotoclastic Tooth Resorption and Hypercementosis (EOTRH) is a new syndrome that has been recently identified in older horses. It is a disease that causes a gradual resorption of the roots of the incisors (and sometimes canines). As the tooth roots start to resorb (aka dissolve), it causes inflammation and a resulting buildup of cementum (calcified tissue) on the roots of the teeth. This is very painful and causes a gradual weakening of the teeth. Diagnosis is made with x-rays and treatment is extraction by a veterinary dental specialist.

Sedated oral exams should be an essential part of your horse's annual physical exam. Each oral exam provides the opportunity to perform routine preventative dental maintenance. The result is a healthier, more comfortable horse.

## Reportable Disease Found in Wisconsin

Last year, a 6-year old mare living in Polk County tested positive for equine herpesvirus myeloencephalopathy (EHV, aka rhinopneumonitis). She had not been vaccinated. The horse was euthanized due to extreme neurologic symptoms. In Wisconsin, EHV is considered a "reportable disease," meaning that if your veterinarian suspects your horse has this disease, it must be reported to the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) within 10 days. The farm will be placed under quarantine and no horses will be able to leave or enter the premises.

EHV is a highly contagious viral disease that can cause respiratory disease, abortion, and neurologic symptoms. The disease has several different forms, with EHV-1 and EHV-4 being the most common strains. EHV-1 causes respiratory disease, abortion in pregnant mares, and neurologic symptoms (myeloencephalitis). EHV-4 mainly causes respiratory disease. EHV-2 usually does not cause clinical disease but suppresses the horse's immune system and EHV-3 causes infection of external genitalia.

Like herpesviruses in other species, these viruses establish latent infection in the majority of horses, which do not show clinical signs but may experience reactivation of infection and shedding of the virus when stressed. Those factors seriously compromise efforts to control the disease and explain why outbreaks of EHV-1 or EHV-4 can occur in closed populations of horses.

There are several different EHV vaccines on the market. Discuss vaccination strategies with your veterinarian during your spring wellness check!

### **WVS IS NOW OFFERING DIGITAL X-RAYS**

**Waupun Vet Service purchased a digital x-ray machine! The small, portable machine does not need electricity and is easily used right in the barn. We are excited to offer our clients advanced imaging options to better diagnose and treat your horse's musculoskeletal concerns.**