

The UEA Bulletin

U N I O N V I L L E E Q U I N E A S S O C I A T E S , P . C .

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As a horse owner, you know that veterinary emergencies can occur at any time. Lacerations, colics and fevers are just a few circumstances that would require immediate attention and they are a fact of life in the equine world. Recognizing this truth, our practice strives to be there for you and your horse around the clock in the event veterinary attention is required.

Even though we traditionally think of emergencies as after-hours events, many do occur during regular business hours. To provide a more rapid response to your request for services, we now have veterinarians on-call for weekday daytime emergencies. We are pleased to be able to offer you this improved emergency coverage. Upon receipt of your emergency call, our office staff will notify your primary veterinarian who may decide to send our on-call veterinarian to provide the best possible care in a timely manner.

After-hours emergency calls will continue to be delivered through the answering service to the on-call veterinarian. The details of an after-hours emergency visit will be transferred to your primary veterinarian as soon as possible the following morning. Daytime emergency details are transferred to your primary veterinarian the same day. In essence, you will have at least two veterinarians involved in each emergency case. Challenging cases often receive attention from our entire staff of nine veterinarians. This collaborative spirit is a tremendous asset to our practice and clientele.

To ensure that we provide you with the finest and most cost effective emergency care possible make sure that we have your complete contact information on file. If you are not yet an established client please contact our office to register. If you have any questions about this new service, please do not hesitate to discuss it with one of our Associates. As always, thank you for choosing Unionville Equine Associates P.C.

Insulin Resistance: Who, When, Where, Why What & How

Who is affected: Ponies, Morgans, Arabians, Warm blood horses and those with a history of inactivity, laminitis, a cresty neck, obesity or “easy keepers” are at risk. A genetic pre-disposition is suspected.

When: The onset is usually after 10 years of age and the frequency increases with age.

Where: It is common in our region due to the presence of adequate pasture with a high carbohydrate concentration.

Why does it occur: Insulin resistance can be secondary to Cushing’s disease (pituitary dysfunction), obesity or a primary entity.

What to do? If your horse is at risk, blood tests are helpful to determine if treatment for Cushing’s disease is needed. Avoid testing in the autumn, as false positive tests for Cushing’s disease are more common.

How to prevent and treat? Diet and exercise! Limit access to pasture and eliminate high carbohydrate concentrates. Use a grazing muzzle. Increase exercise – even 20 minutes of walking daily is beneficial in reducing insulin resistance. Treatment with pergolide is indicated if insulin resistance is secondary to Cushing’s disease. If insulin resistance is the primary diagnosis contact your veterinarian regarding other pharmacy treatments available.

Time to test? Testing, especially for insulin resistance, should be done before growth of Spring grass; ideally by the 1st of April.

R e p r o d u c t i o n N e w s

Unionville Equine Associates, P.C. has been offering reproductive services to our clients for the past thirty years and hopes to continue this tradition well into the future. In order to offer the most current and effective reproductive services our veterinarians value continuing education and communicate regularly with other veterinary reproductive colleagues. To continue that effort our practice is pleased to announce we will be partnering with the Select Breeders Services division of Maryland to offer embryo transfer services. Our services will include collecting embryos for shipment, transfer to a recipient mare or cryopreservation. Embryo transfer is advantageous in many circumstances such as producing more than one offspring per mare each year, enabling your mare to continue competing while producing offspring, producing foals from mares that are not capable of carrying a pregnancy to term or allowing the recipient mare to incur the risks of pregnancy and delivery while sparing the donor mare from potential complications. Many of our reproductive services including embryo transfer may be performed at our clinic.

Aside from routine breeding management, our veterinarians take special interest in mares with chronic fertility problems. The reproductive evaluation of a mare is unique in every case and often includes a variety of procedures such as rectal palpation, trans-rectal ultrasonography, vaginal speculum exam, uterine culture, uterine cytology and sometimes uterine biopsies. We are now also offering hysteroscopy (uterine endoscopy) which allows the veterinarian to visualize abnormalities within the uterus. This procedure can be performed at our clinic and does require follow up care. Our practice is very excited to be able to offer this new service so please contact one of our veterinarians for further information.

Visit us on the web at www.ueavet.com to browse our new updated website and take a moment to submit your email address to info@ueavet.com to receive our monthly newsletter.

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