

Mid-Hudson Veterinary Practice, P.C.

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APRIL 2007



Shipping, competing, and showing your horse is stressful!!

Did you know that by the time a foal is one week old, it has already been infected with the herpes virus that causes *Rhinopneumonitis*? The herpes virus remains with the horse for life in a dormant stage until activated by stress. Because the horse's immune system is much less

effective during periods of stress, this allows the herpes virus to become an active infection making the horse sick. As the horse's immune system recovers from the stressful episode, the herpes virus returns to its latent stage only to be re-activated by the next "stressful incident". **Zylexis** is an immune boosting agent given to horses prior to stressful episodes such as long distance shipping and overnight horse shows. Research indicates that horses are much less likely to develop stress related "rhino" infections, if given **Zylexis** prior to being shipped, competed, etc. Additionally, giving your horse **Gastroguard** or **Ulcerguard** for a few days before, during, and after shipping or showing is also recommended to prevent the formation of **gastric ulcers**. Horses readily develop "stress ulcers" from any number of stressful experiences including shipping and showing. The likely development of gastric ulcers has been shown to affect not just performance horses but pleasure horses as well. Horses with gastric ulcers may present with an array of clinical signs including diminished performance, depression, weight loss, and colic. Give us a call to find out more about using **Zylexis** before you ship your horse off to its next show as well as how to use **Ulcerguard** or **Gastroguard** to prevent and treat gastric ulcers.

Digital Radiography is now available at MHVP!! Did you know that x-ray technology has changed?? *Digital radiography* provides high resolution imaging, so that complex diagnoses can be made quickly and confidently. *Digital radiography* provides greater accuracy in diagnostic imaging which improves patient care and treatment. *Digital radiography* also generates highly diagnostic images which are displayed in seconds, minimizing the wait for vital diagnostic information. Additionally, results can be discussed immediately, multiple images can be displayed and compared on the screen at one time, and images can be quickly shared with team members, colleagues, and insurance companies. We're excited about how *digital radiography* will improve the quality of our patient care! Call us to find out more.

Allergy testing is recommended now for horses that develop itchy skin, hair loss, hives, and/or difficult breathing in the spring and summer months. Stop guessing and find out what your horse is allergic to with a simple blood test! Most allergens typically take the form of inhalants such as molds, spores, ragweed, and goldenrod. However, some horses have food allergies to grasses, grains and molasses, while other horses are allergic to biting insects, such as culicoides. *Those horses which suffer from allergic disorders are usually positive to several allergens!*

It's time to vaccinate your horse!! Several vaccines such as **Rabies, EWT, PHF, West Nile Virus, Flu-Rhino,** and **Strangles** are strongly recommended to protect your horse. The neurologic form of **Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1)** remains a concern and immunization every 2-3 months is still recommended. Don't forget that proof of a current negative **Coggins test** is necessary to enter shows and to ship interstate. Annual physical examinations of your horse are required to enroll in the **Pfizer Preventicare™ Program**. If needed, horses enrolled in this program are entitled to a reimbursement of up to \$5,000 toward colic surgery! Now is the time of year to perform dental exams, discuss deworming schedules, perform annual preventative exams and more. **Call our office to discuss any concerns you may have about your horse as well as to schedule a spring "healthy horse" appointment!**

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