FOCUS on VACCINES and why we use them

Spring and fall are the most common times to see the vet at your barn because of vaccination guidelines. Many clients know this schedule well but are not familiar with the details of the diseases against which we vaccinate. Many vaccine protocols are tailored to your barn's needs or your specific horse's needs. This newsletter will focus briefly on the easiest way to understand these diseases and protocols.

Horse shows provide an ideal venue for the transmission of contagious diseases.

September and October are the months for fall vaccinations. Call today for an appointment!

"Environmental" diseases are those transmitted by biting insects, standing water/wetlands, or soil/pasture. They are NOT transmitted from horse to horse.

West Nile virus is a mosquito-transmitted virus that causes fever and neurological signs. The vaccine is administered in *spring and fall.*

Potomac horse fever is a snail-transmitted bacteria associated with standing water/wetlands. Signs include high fever, watery diarrhea, and sometimes severe laminitis. The vaccine is administered in the *spring and fall.*

Equine Protozoal Myelitis is a protozoal organism found in opossum feces. Signs include hind-end neurological signs. The vaccine is no longer available.

Botulism is caused by bacterial spores in soil, dead carcasses or in round bales of hay. Signs include inability to swallow, paralysis and anorexia. May resemble rabies. Vaccinated in the *spring* (especially horses on round bale hay or broodmares going to Kentucky).

Tetanus is caused by a bacteria associated with puncture wounds especially of hooves. Signs include inability to swallow or open mouth very wide, anorexia and paralysis. The vaccine is administered in the *spring.*

Eastern and Western encephalitis are caused by mosquito-borne viruses that can be contagious to humans. Signs include high fever, lethargy and neurological signs with no history of vaccination. The vaccine is given in the *spring.*

Rabies is caused by a virus transmitted in the saliva of a rabid animal. There is a huge human contagion risk. The vaccine is given in the *spring.*

"Contagious" diseases are trasmitted from horse to horse, or humans to horses.

Equine Influenza (Flu) is an upper respiratory virus transmitted via nose-to-nose contact with other horses. Signs include fever and cough. The vaccine is administered in the *spring and fall* (and more frequently in active barns)

Rhinopneumonitis (Rhino) is caused by an equine herpes virus transmitted horse to horse. Stressful situations can make a "carrier" horse get sick and transmit the virus. Signs include fever and neurological signs. The vaccine is administered in the *spring and fall* and more frequently in active barns.

Strangles – the "Strep throat" of the horse world is caused by bacteria transmitted via nose-to-nose contact or via unclean human hands or clothing. Signs include moderate fever, thick nasal discharge, swollen lymph nodes under the jaw, and poor appetite. The vaccine is administered in the *spring* especially in young horses and active barns.

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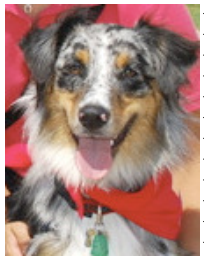
THE CORNER MAILBOX

"Hayden" Harrison



Hayden is a two year old blue merle Australian Shepherd who fell into Emily's lap thanks to an Ohio-based Aussie rescue group. Hayden is very smart (sometimes too smart, his mother reports) and takes his job of defending her work vehicle seriously. Hayden is athletic and enjoys hiking with his mom. He can't wait to start agility classes! He is most passionate about vanilla ice cream and tennis balls. He hopes to own sheep one day soon!

MID-HUDSON VETERINARY PRACTICE, P.C.