

# Sunrise Equine Veterinary Services, PLLC



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[www.SunriseEquine.com](http://www.SunriseEquine.com)

Fall 2015

## SEVS News

*Dr. Kirsten Frederickson*

Fall is here! It is generally considered the best time of the year to ride. Many horses will be traveling for trail riding and shows. We are continually reminded of the possibility of EHV outbreaks. Many farms in nearby states are still under quarantine for Vesicular Stomatitis. Ryan's Rescue out of Simon's Arena in Cannon Falls has helped many horses go from the kill pen to a new home but it's been a hot bed for strangles and flu. With all of this in mind, biosecurity becomes an even more important concept.

New horses or those that have had potential exposure should be quarantined for at least 2 weeks, but preferably three. The incubation period is the time it takes to become sick after exposure. Many diseases show up within two weeks but there is a wide range of incubation periods so it's safer to error on the long side. After a horse has been sick they can still shed the disease for up to 3 weeks. A horse that comes to a new place could be in quarantine for a very long time if it does fall ill. Up to 3 weeks before showing signs, 2 weeks of being sick and 3 weeks after to give them time to stop shedding the organism. That's a good 2 months. You may need to plan ahead to be sure the area is appropriate in terms of size and shelter in case of weather changes during this time period.

Where and how the quarantined horse is cared for is just as important. A good strong sneeze is said to travel 40 feet in the right conditions. A fence line or stall wall is not a barrier for germs. Distance is your friend here. If putting up a pen, consider the general wind patterns as well. Always tend to the quarantined horse last. After handling that horse you need to change clothes (or remove coveralls and boot protectors) and wash up well. Everything used by that horse stays by that horse until the quarantine is over or it is disinfected.

Disinfecting only works on items that are free of organic material. Dirt, feces and mucus can inactivate disinfectants or protect germs from them. This means a two step process should be involved: washing to remove all debris, then using a disinfectant to kill the germs that can still be hanging on. This is true of boots as well where the tread may be hiding quite a bit when packed with dirt.

Keep an eye on the current news in regards to infectious diseases. APHIS is a great resource for when and where reportable diseases have been identified in the US. The MN Board of Animal Health monitors our state. University extension services do a great job keep the public up to date via their Facebook page. We also try to inform our clients about potential outbreaks, updates, and informational topics via our

Facebook page so be sure to "like" our page! If you have questions on developing an appropriate biosecurity protocol or if you suspect one of your horses is coming down with a contagious disease, please call our office to schedule an appointment.

## Items of Interest

### Cat Castration Day

To help reduce the cat overpopulation problem, we are once again neutering male cats at a reduced fee.

When: Saturday, October 31st, 2015

Cost: 1 cat - \$70

2 cats - \$60 each

3 or more - \$50 each

Vaccinations available: PRCC \$16.00  
Rabies \$11.00

Nail Trim: \$5.00

Drop your cat off Saturday morning between 8-9 am and pick him up between 2-3 pm. Cats MUST be in a carrier with a blanket.

Please call to make your cats' appointment!

### Mission Statement:

At Sunrise Equine we are committed to helping improve the lives of horses and their owners. We work collaboratively to apply our knowledge and skills, and to educate our clients. We are here for owners and horses in their time of need, and will advocate for the best interest of both. We work ethically and with integrity in everything we do.

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## Fall And Winter Horse Care Tips

### By Michelle Wiberg, DVM

Here in Minnesota, we face some of the harshest winter weather across the country. You may even find yourself asking, “Why do I live here?” when we’re in the heart of winter. Here are a few tips to help you prepare for the onset of cold weather and prevent health problems, such as colic, in your horses.

**Forage First:** An average horse needs to consume about 2% of their body weight (BW) per day in feed to maintain body condition. The bulk of the horse’s diet should consist of forages, either hay or pasture. Some “easy keeper” type horses may require slightly less (1.5% of BW), while others, such as young growing horses, pregnant or nursing mares, working athletes, and older horses may require slightly more (up to 3% of BW per day). An average 1000 lb horse should consume about 20lb of hay per day. The critical temperature for a horse with a winter hair coat is about 18 degrees. Smaller animals (mini’s), thin, young horses, old horses, or horses with thinner, shorter coats may have a higher critical temperature. When temperatures drop below the horse’s critical temperature, the horse’s metabolic requirements increase. In negative degree weather, an average horse may require 2.5-3% of its BW in feed per day. More heat is produced in the digestion of forages than concentrates, so it is best to increase the hay consumption for horses in the winter, rather than the grain consumption. If your horse requires additional nutrition from grain, consult with your veterinarian or nutritionist with questions on which products may be best for your horse.

**Water and Salt:** With the increase consumption of dry hay in the winter comes the increased likelihood of dehydration and risk of impaction type colic. Ensure your horse has continuous access to fresh, non-frozen water. When the temperatures begin to drop below freezing, check your horse’s water source several times a day and remove any ice that may have formed. When temperatures are consistently below freezing, ice removal becomes impractical and a tank heater or heated water source of some kind should be used. Studies show that horses prefer warm water in the winter. Providing access to a salt and mineral block or adding salts to the grain can help increase water consumption in the winter.

**Shelter and blanketing:** All horses should be provided with at least a three sided shelter or lean-to that is large enough to accommodate all horses in the pen. Horses stalled at night may be turned out into an open paddock or pasture during the day. Blanketing can help protect the horse from the elements when shelter is not available. The blanket should be kept reasonably clean, should be properly fitted to the horse so as not to cause rubbing or slipping, and be waterproof. The blanket should be removed periodically to groom the horse, check for sores or rubs, and assess the horse’s body condition. Thick winter hair coats can hide a horse’s body condition. Periodically running your hands over the horse’s ribs and top line can help you better assess the condition and adjust the feeding program accordingly.

**Water, Mud and Ice:** Temperature fluctuations may result in standing water, mud, and ice. Check the paddocks/pastures frequently for icy areas. Fence off icy areas, spread sand, or break up the ice to prevent horses from slipping. In muddy conditions, monitor the horses’ heels for evidence of bacterial infections known as “scratches” or pastern dermatitis. Try to keep the horse’s limbs clean and dry when possible to best prevent infection.

**Turnout:** Even in the dead of winter, exercise is still a very important part of a horse’s daily routine. Movement helps stimulate normal digestive action. Stalled or confined horses are more prone to colic than horse’s with adequate turnout, as are horses switching from pasture turnout to confinement. When the weather is harshest, even several hours of arena turnout or hand walking up and down the barn aisle or driveway is better than strict confinement. If you don’t have access to an indoor arena and are unable to hand walk the horse, bundle the horse up in an appropriately fitted horse blanket and let them have a few hours of turnout in a safe paddock or pasture. We all want our horses to be warm and safe during winter storms. Just remember that major routine changes are more likely to induce colic. Ensuring adequate water intake and exercise can go a long way in certain type of colic prevention.

**Fall Routine Care:** Fall is a great time to have a fecal egg count performed on your horse to determine his parasite load prior to deworming. Tapeworm eggs do not readily show up in the fecal egg counts so we recommend that all horses be dewormed with a product containing Proiziquantel after the first hard frost. Example products include EquiMax, Zimmetrin Gold, and Quest Plus. If your horse lives in a sandy area, check the manure for sand content. Sand ingestion can build up over time in the horse’s colon and lead to major problems such as colic and diarrhea. If you find sand, talk to your veterinarian about running a course of Sand Clear to help rid the bowels of the sand accumulation. Fall is also a great time to have your horse’s teeth checked and floated. Dental problems can lead to pain, weight loss, colic, choke, and performance issues. Horses can hide dental problems very well, so even though your horse may be in good weight and not showing any outward signs of dental problems, have the horse’s teeth checked annually before problems develop.

**Emergency Preparedness:** Equine emergencies often occur at the most inopportune times. Keep your veterinarian’s phone number in the barn, saved on your phone, or somewhere easily accessible. It’s always best to consult with your veterinarian before attempting to treat something on your own. Having a well stocked first aid kit is also important in the case of minor injuries or the chance your vet cannot get there right away. Examples of items to have in your first aid kit include bandaging materials, leg wraps, duct tape, exam gloves, wound scrub, antibiotic ointment, non-stick wound pads, pain medications such as Bute or banamine, a stethoscope and thermometer. If your horse is ill, taking the horse’s temperature and heart rate prior to calling the vet can help the veterinarian determine the severity of the emergency. Not all emergencies can be properly treated on the farm. You should consider what your options are if your horse needed to be referred to an equine hospital. Is referral an option? Do you have a truck and trailer or access to one? Can the trailer be easily accessed or is it buried in snow? Which referral hospital would you go to? The more prepared you are for a potential emergency, the more likely things are to go smoothly.

# Open House and Client Education Day

Saturday, November 21st, 2015

12pm - 4pm

Please come meet our staff & enjoy refreshments with us!  
Place your bids on the silent auction items!  
Register for great door prizes to be given throughout the day!  
(Must be present to win - door prizes only)

## Schedule of Events:

12:15 "Get the Back on Track - Addressing Back Pain " by Dr. Michael Maher, U of MN

1:15 "Topics in Nutrition" by TBA

2:15 "Routine Equine Dentistry" by Dr. Michelle Wiberg

3:15 "Advancements in Equine Ultrasound" by Dr. Kirsten Frederickson

## Ongoing Events

Bring in a fecal sample (1 fresh apple in a baggie will do!) for a \$10 parasite check  
provided by Merck Animal Health

Test your horse knowledge with a fun quiz & get a prize!!

Poisonous Plant Posters

Equine Skeleton!

## Silent Auction!!

*Great products and Services donated from local horse related businesses*

*Proceeds benefiting the local horse rescues*

## Directions

7 miles East of North Branch on Hwy 95 ~ go North on Poor Farm Rd  
(just East of County Road 9) 3rd place on the left.

More information on our website ! [www.SunriseEquine.com](http://www.SunriseEquine.com)

## Strategic Deworming Recommendations

We used to want horses to be parasite free. In order to prevent resistant worms, the new goal is to maintain a low level of parasites.

### Spring Recommendation:

Fecal: to know your horse's parasite load.

If fecal count is low and the horse is healthy, do 2 fecals per year and deworm in the fall.

If fecal count is high, deworm in spring and run another fecal 2-3 weeks after deworming to check effectiveness of dewormer.

### Fall Recommendation:

All horses should be dewormed with an ivermectin/praziquantal product after the first hard frost to kill bots and tapeworms along with other intestinal parasites.

There are a few horses who will need to be dewormed every 8 weeks but this is the minority.

We will be happy to discuss your horse's specific needs.

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**Dates to Remember:**

◆ *Cat Castration Day October 31st*

◆ *Open House and Client Education*

*November 21st (see inside for details!)*

◆ *Winter Dental Special: November*

*through February. Office call will be free*

*when you bring your horse(s) to our*

*heated barn for dental floating!*

Address Correction Requested

**Sunrise Equine Veterinary Services**  
 39318 Poor Farm Road  
 North Branch, MN 55056

