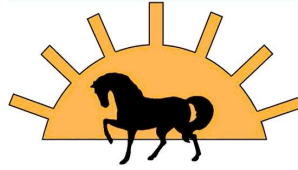


Sunrise Equine Veterinary Services, PLLC



Volume 27, Issue 1

651-583-2162

www.SunriseEquine.com

Spring 2021

SEVS News

Welcome to the spring 2021 newsletter! It feels like a decade of events have transpired since last year and yet time is moving by at an alarming rate! COVID caused a surge in the veterinary industry due to people having more time for animals. It also mysteriously led to a huge increase in the number of emergency calls. This left us very worn out by the end of the year but in the fortunate position to hire a 4th veterinarian which marks a new milestone for Sunrise Equine! We are very excited to be adding Dr. Kate O'Connor to our practice. She looks forward to meeting all of our wonderful clients. Having four vets will give us the ability to see more patients and help to spread out the on call duty so we will all be more well rested. A couple more assistants have been added as well to round out the team. See her intro on the next page.

Make sure to check out our spring routine care dates and call early for best availability. New this year, we will be adding a few more routine care days throughout the summer as well. As always the farm call discount can only be upheld if there are enough appointments in that area to make it feasible, so remember to let other horse owners around you know when we are planning to be in your region. Happy spring and we look forward to seeing all of you!

2021 Vaccination Recommendations

All Horses:

Tetanus
Sleeping Sickness (Eastern/ Western)
West Nile Virus
Rabies

Transmission:

Wounds/ Injuries
Mosquitoes
Mosquitoes
Rabid Animals

All Horses based on risk assessment:

Potomac Horse Fever (if horses near water)
Leptospirosis

Transmission:

Snails/Mayflies
Wildlife/Water
Sources

(NEW! Optional, but recommended, esp. in Appaloosas, Infection can cause uveitis, abortions, and kidney disease)

All horses that come into contact with new horses:

Influenza
Rhinopneumonitis (EHV 1/4)

Strangles (intranasal)

Transmission:

Oral/Nasal Secretions
Oral/Nasal Secretions,
placental/repro fluids
Respiratory
secretions, abscess
secretions

Breeding Horses:

Rhino for pregnant mares (5,7, and 9 months)

Please "Like" us on Facebook!
Keep updated with horse news you need to know.

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.

Coggins/Vaccine Clinics!

*** By Appointment Only - (Please Call to Schedule)**

Minnesota & Wisconsin Clients

Horses Only

When: Monday April 5th, 2021, 4:30pm-6:30pm
Thursday April 8th, 2021, 4:30pm- 6:30pm
Saturday April 10th, 2021, 12:00pm-2:00pm

NEW Cats/Dogs Only

When: Saturday March 20th, 2021, 10:00am-12:00pm
(Vaccines, heartworm testing, and Microchip placement)

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

All Clients Welcome - have your horses Coggins, vaccinations, and fecals done at a **reduced price!**

****Rain, Shine or Snow****In case of rain or snow, Coggins clinic will be held in our barn.

Coggins done by Sunrise Equine. Visit our website or Facebook Page for more information and directions!

www.sunriseequine.com

Special Services Offered:

- ◆ Professional Equine Chiropractic Care
- ◆ Upper Airway Endoscopy AND Gastric Endoscopy
- ◆ Advanced Ultrasound
- ◆ Portable Digital Radiography
- ◆ Shockwave Therapy
- ◆ Eye Pressure Checks

EPM: Master of Disguise

By: Dr. Jill Deets

Equine Protozoal Myeloencephalitis (EPM) is a neurologic disease that is sometimes called the “great mimicker,” as it can resemble other types of neurologic diseases and can range from having mild to severe symptoms. Because of this, it can be difficult to definitively diagnose.

The main causative organism of EPM is a protozoal parasite called *Sarcocystis neurona*, but another protozoan that has been linked to the disease is *Neospora hughesi*. According to the AAEP, over 50% of horses in the United States have been exposed to *Sarcocystis neurona*. The protozoan is transmitted from an intermediate host (raccoons, skunks, cats, armadillos) to the opossum, which is the definitive host. The opossum passes the infective stage of the organism, called sporocysts, via their feces. Horses then become infected by ingesting the sporocysts from grazing or consuming contaminated feed or water. The sporocysts then migrate from the intestinal tract to the bloodstream, where it then crosses the blood/brain barrier and infects the central nervous system. The route of transmission and life cycle of *N. hughesi* is unknown, but there is evidence suggesting it has a canine definitive host and that it can pass from a mare to its fetus. The average age of affected horses is about 3.5 to 4.5 years old, but horses can acquire the disease at any age. Despite the high exposure rate, however, only a very small percentage of horses actually develop clinical EPM (about 1%). It is not yet well known why horses transition from being asymptomatic to having clinical disease.

Clinical signs can have a slow or more sudden onset. Progression of the disease is thought to be associated with the number of organisms ingested, how long the horse has it in their system before treatment is started, the location and severity of lesions in the brain or spinal cord, and any stressful events that occur after becoming infected. The three general clinical signs that appear are the “three A’s of EPM”: Atrophy of muscles, Ataxia (incoordination), and Asymmetry of clinical signs (not appearing the same on both sides of the horse’s body). Asymmetric muscle atrophy is usually most noticed along the topline or hindquarters, but may be appreciated on the face or front limbs. Other clinical signs include weakness, muscle paralysis of the face, difficulty swallowing, seizures, abnormal sweating, loss of sensation, head tilt, and poor balance.

Diagnosis of EPM starts with a good physical exam by your veterinarian to rule out other neurological diseases or even any injuries that could be causing similar clinical signs. Blood testing for EPM can be performed that measures antibody titer levels and provides a ratio for likelihood of disease. However, a positive blood test only indicates exposure to the organism and not whether the horse has or will develop the disease. The gold standard test is collecting cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). This gives a much more definitive diagnosis because the sample is taken directly from the central nervous system. Collecting CSF is more costly and can come with some potential risks. However, the cost can be worth the reward in acquiring a more clear diagnosis and starting the correct treatment.

Treatment should be started as soon as possible after a diagnosis is made. According to the AAEP, 60 to 70% of horses can have significant or complete recovery if treated aggressively, but about 10 to 20% of horses may relapse. There are three anti-protozoal treatments that are FDA-approved: Ponazuril (Marquis), Diclazuril (Protazil), and Sulfadiazine/Pyrimethamine (Re-Balance). Standard treatment is usually about one month, but sometimes treatment is needed for 6 to 8 weeks or longer. Anti-inflammatories and a vitamin E supplement are adjunctive therapies that are also used during treatment.

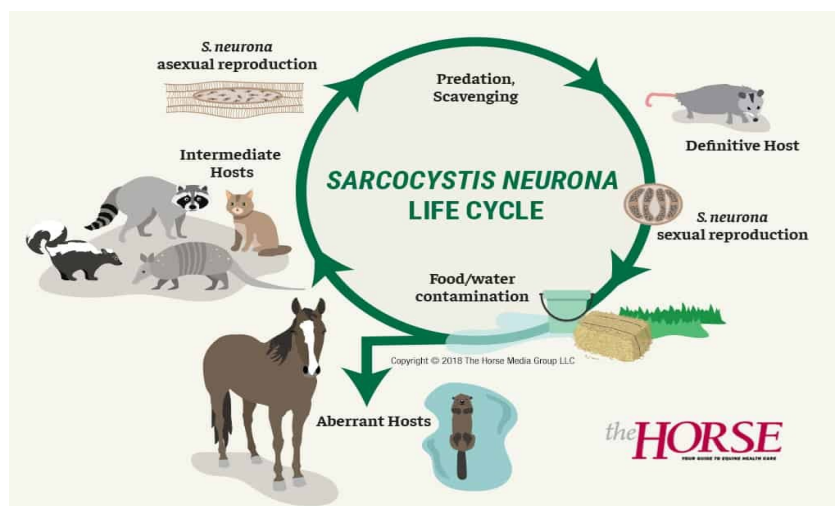
Unfortunately there is not a vaccine available to help with preventing EPM. The best prevention measures include keeping wildlife at bay by sealing up feed containers/feed rooms and removing any spilled grain, as well as keeping water sources clean. As always, it's best to keep up with the overall wellness of your horse, including regular deworming and vaccination protocols.

Sources:

AAEP.org - [EPM: Understanding this Debilitating Disease | AAEP](#)

Furr, Martin and Reed, Stephen. Equine Neurology: 2nd edition. Wiley Blackwell. 2015. Pg 285 - 298.

TheHorse.com - [Update: EPM in Horses – The Horse](#)



Welcome Our New Doctor! Dr. Kate O’Conor DVM, MS

We are very excited to announce that Dr. Kate O’Conor has joined our team at Sunrise Equine! Dr. Kate graduated from the University of Minnesota in 2010 and completed an internship and residency in Large Animal Internal Medicine at the University of Minnesota as well. She went on to also complete a master’s degree focused on llamas and alpacas. She has developed special interests with infectious diseases, gastrointestinal problems such as chronic diarrhea, ophthalmology, and metabolic disorders.

Dr. Kate grew up riding in a variety of English disciplines, and is again looking forward to getting back into it now that she has moved out of the city. She lives in North Branch with her son and their pet sheep named Turkey. Together they enjoy hiking, riding bike, and are currently working on training Turkey to carry a pack!

Kate is excited to join Sunrise Equine. She is excited to meet and get to know the clients and their horses in the area. We are fortunate to have Dr. Kate and her passion for equine medicine join our practice. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Kate O’Conor to Sunrise Equine!



Strategic Deworming

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.

- ◆ Perform 2 fecal exams yearly (fall and spring).
- ◆ If low shedder, deworm 1-2 times per year
- ◆ If high shedder, consult your veterinarian
- ◆ If fecal count is **high**, run another fecal 2-3 weeks after deworming to check effectiveness of dewormer.
- ◆ All horses should be dewormed with ivermectin/praziquantal after the first hard frost to kill bots, tapeworms and other intestinal parasites.
- ◆ Foals: We recommend deworming every 1-2 months with a rotation schedule until 1 year of age. After this fecal exams can be started to determine future protocol.
- ◆ Do not use Quest Plus in horses < 3 years of age.

Month	< 200 EPG = Low Shedder	200-500 EPG= Moderate Shedder	>500 EPG = High Shedder
April	Optional Pyrantel or Fenbendazole	Moxidectin	Moxidectin
July		Pyrantel or Fenbendazole	Pyrantel
August			Fenbendazole
October (*should be after first hard frost)	Ivermectin or Moxidectin PLUS Praziquantal	Ivermectin PLUS Praziquantal	Ivermectin PLUS Praziquantal

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

Spring Routine Care Days!

To better serve our clients, we are offering **HALF PRICE FARM CALLS*** if you are able to schedule your horses' routine Spring care on the days we have designated a doctor will be in your area!

Routine and preventative care includes: wellness exams, dental exams and power dental floats, vaccinations, Coggins, sheath cleanings, recheck exams, fecal egg counts, dewormings, and castrations.

How to schedule: 1.) Find your city or nearby city, and determine which Zone you fall in.

2.) Pick one of the dates we will be in your Zone and give us a call to schedule your appointment. We ask that you are flexible with your appointment time (no specific time is scheduled as appointments are routed according to location), and **call at least a week in advance.** Priority will be given to those that call first. 3.) We will call you the day before the appointment and give you an estimated 2 hour window during which the doctor will arrive. We will call again the day of the appointment to notify you that the doctor is on their way. **Please have your horses caught and ready for their veterinary visit.** We reserve the right to cancel a scheduled routine care day based on low participation (less than 2 appointments in an area).

Preventative care days are intended for clients with only a few horses who are looking for ways to save a little money without their horses having to leave the farm. If you have 10 or more horses, please call and schedule a barn day where you will receive a different discount and have to option to request a doctor. If the dates listed do not work with your schedule or if you have other work that you would like done on your horse, as always, you may call and schedule an appointment at your convenience. If you are able to coordinate your visit with your neighbor(s), we are still willing to offer discounted farm calls. Give our office a call to schedule your appointment. Call early for best availability!

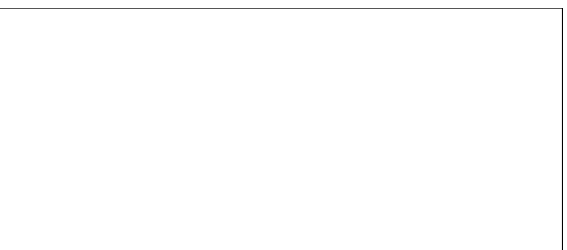
651-583-2162

**Must pay in full at time of appointment*


Zone	Cities	Dates (Monday-Friday)
1	North Branch, Harris, Stacy, Sunrise	March 22 nd , April 2 nd , 6 th , 15 th , 22 nd , 28 th , May 7 th , 13 th , 18 th , 24 th , June 10 th , 22 nd
2	Rush City, Rook Creek, Rush Point	March 23 rd , April 5 th , 14 th , 23 rd , May 6 th , 14 th , 24 th , June 11 th , 28 th
3	Granitsburg, Siren, Webster, Danbury	March 26 th , April 6 th , 12 th , 22 nd , 30 th , May 5 th , 11 th , 20 th , 28 th , June 14 th , 25 th
4	Frederic, Cushing, Luck, Milltown	March 29 th , April 8 th , 16 th , 20 th , May 3 rd , 14 th , 19 th , 25 th , June 18 th , July 2 nd
5	Shafter, Taylors Falls, St. Croix Falls, Centura, Balsam Lake, Dresser, Osceola, Amery	March 24 th , April 5 th , 16 th , 27 th , May 3 rd , 13 th , 21 st , 27 th , June 15 th , July 1 st
6	Wyoming, Chisago City, Lindstrom, Center City, Scandia, Forest Lake, Columbus, Hugo	March 25 th , April 2 nd , 13 th , 19 th , 30 th , May 12 th , 21 st , June 3 rd , 21 st
7	Isanti (S. of CR 5), East Bethel, Bethel, St. Francis, Ham Lake, Linwood	March 30 th , April 9 th , 21 st , 26 th , May 4 th , 10 th , 20 th , June 4 th , 17 th
8	Cambridge, Isanti (N. of CR 5), Stanchfield, Braham, Dalbo	March 29 th , April 7 th , 20 th , 29 th , May 7 th , 17 th , June 1 st , 24 th
9	Pine City, Grasston, Mora, Brook Park	March 31 st , April 9 th , 19 th , 26 th , May 6 th , 17 th , 27 th , June 8 th , 29 th
10	Hinckley, Sandstone, Askev, Finlayson	April 1 st , 12 th , 23 rd , May 4 th , 10 th , 18 th , 26 th , June 7 th , July 6 th

Dates to Remember:

- ◆ Spring Routine Care Days: March~July See schedule on the back!
- ◆ Coggins Clinic Dates: Monday April 5th, Thursday April 8th, Saturday April 10th and Small Animal Day Saturday March 20th.



Address Correction Requested

PROUD MEMBER OF

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