

Hello Everyone,

Included is the Weekly Pile of Information for the week of June 21, 2015, Extension's Equine related educational information & announcements for Rockingham & Guilford Counties. To have something included in the Weekly Pile, please follow these simple guidelines.

- Information included needs to be educational in nature &/or directly related to Rockingham or Guilford Counties.**
- provided information is a resource to the citizens of Rockingham/Guilford Counties.**
- provided information does not require extra time or effort to be listed.**
 - Listings for Swap Shop will not list pricing details.**
 - Please E-mail information to me by Wednesday each Week.**
- Please keep ads or events as short as possible – with NO FORMATTING, NO unnecessary Capitalization's and NO ATTACHED DOCUMENTS.**

(If sent in that way, it may not be included)

 - Please include contact information - Phone, Email and alike.**
- PLEASE PUT WEEKLY PILE IN SUBJECT LINE when you send into me.**
- The Weekly Pile is not for listings for Commercial type properties or products.**

If I forgot to include anything in this email it was probably an oversight on my part, but please let me know!

If you have a question or ideas that you would like covered in the Weekly Pile, please let me know and I will try to include. As Always, I would like to hear your comments about the Weekly Pile or the Extension Horse Program in Rockingham or Guilford Counties!

I NEED YOUR FEEDBACK & IDEAS!

Included in The Pile this Week:

1. Proposed Sales Tax on Veterinary Services

2. Guilford County Jr. Livestock Show August 8

3. Lightning

4. You Asked

5. Severe Weather Prep

6. Steps to Minimize Weeds in Horse Pastures

7. Safety at A Horse Event

8. Ascarids In Horses

9. Basic Dental Care For Horses

10. Dressage at Lexington July 10 - 12, 2015

11. Fiore Farms Horse Camp - July 13th-17th

12. HAY

13. Swap Shop

14. Take A Load Off

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1. Proposed Sales Tax On Veterinary Services

Senate Budget Process Continues

North Carolina General Assembly Week in Review - <http://www.mwcllc.com/updates/articles/2015/6/nc-general-assembly-june-12.aspx>

Sales Tax Expansion

The new Senate tax proposal change the sales tax structure, including: eliminating the sales tax exemption for installation services; expansion of the sales tax base to include repair and maintenance services; **expansion of sales tax to include pet care service and veterinary services**; and expansion of the sales tax base to include advertising services.

The expansion of the sales tax base is projected to yield the following outcomes:

- See more at: <http://www.mwcllc.com/updates/articles/2015/6/nc-general-assembly-june-12.aspx#sthash.qUcSpiJ7.dpuf>

NC Information: Budget Proposal Would Charge Sales Tax on Veterinary, Grooming, and Boarding Services - <http://www.akc.org/government-relations/legislative-alerts/nc-information-budget-proposal-would-charge-sales-tax-on-veterinary-grooming-boarding-services/>

NC Senate plan would add sales tax to services, shift revenue

<http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/article23916139.html>

NORTH CAROLINA SENATE PROPOSES SALES TAX ON PET CARE

<http://abc11.com/pets/nc-senate-proposes-sales-tax-on-pet-care/803658/>

State Summary Report - State taxes charged on veterinary sales and services -

<https://www.avma.org/Advocacy/StateAndLocal/Pages/sr-state-taxes.aspx>

You are encouraged to let your voice be heard (ASAP) on this important matter. If you are silent it will cost you in many ways. Save future hardships & complaints now by letting your elected leaders know where you stand, and how this tax could impact you! Many Veterinary Hospitals & Clinics have letters that are ready for your signature and postage that you may send to our elected leaders. Contact your Veterinarian for one of these letters and more information!

Your Legislators are

State Senate - Philip Berger (R-26) - http://www.ciclt.net/sn/pol/po_detail.aspx?ClientCode=ncvma&MemID=&P_ID=ncss26

State House - Jonathan Hardister (R-059) – http://www.ciclt.net/sn/pol/po_detail.aspx?ClientCode=ncvma&MemID=&P_ID=ncsh059

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2. Guilford County Jr. Livestock Show August 8

Excitement is in the air about the 3rd Annual Guilford County Junior Livestock Show that will be held on August 8th, 2015 at the Guilford County Agricultural Center. The Guilford County Extension Livestock Show Committee and the Guilford County 4H Livestock Club host this event with Farm Bureau being a major Sponsor and Farm Credit Sponsoring the Show Circuit. The show will begin on August 8th at 8:30 am with the Steer Show with Heifer, Goat & Sheep shows to follow. The Guilford County Agricultural Center (Arena & Barn) is located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro.

We would like to invite you to come and be a part of this event!

This show is the beginning of the Fall Livestock Shows which will conclude at the North Carolina State Fair in Raleigh in October. This is a Great opportunity for local youth to participate in this area show to gain show experience. As participants in the livestock projects at these shows, these youth are responsible for raising and training their animals for exhibitions and as part of showmanship they are also responsible for knowledge pertaining to the Management, Business, Herd Health & Marketing of these animals. This show on August 8th is also part of a Multi-County Livestock Show Circuit. These youth that are participating in this Show Circuit earn points at the different shows and then are compiled & recognized at the completion of the Circuit Show Season.

We are very excited to host this event in Greensboro and the youth that show Livestock are very excited about it too. The Guilford County Junior Livestock Show is open to youth 5-19 years old and enrolled in 4H Club or FFA program in their school. Any students or parents with questions pertaining to the livestock show should contact Ben Chase Extension Livestock Agent in Guilford & Rockingham Counties at 800-666-3625, ben_chase@ncsu.edu or Livestock Show Committee Chair, Rhonda Ingram at 978-5897.

Please make plans to attend the first Annual 2015 Guilford County Junior Livestock Show on August 8th starting at 8:30am & being held at the Guilford County Agricultural Center, located at 3309 Burlington Road in Greensboro. You will have an enjoyable time watching the Youth and the Animals.

It takes a lot of volunteers to help put on a show such as this. If you would like to volunteer to assist with working at the Show on August 8th, please let me know.

Hope to see you there!

(At this site you will find Entry Forms & Rules for each Show in the Circuit)

<http://richmond.ces.ncsu.edu/site-richmond-9/>

4-H Farm Credit Showmanship Circuit Rules & Registration

Livestock Show Family Registration Form

GUILFORD County Show Rules

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3. Lightning

US Dept of Commerce

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

National Weather Service

As of the June 1, 2015 there have been six lightning fatalities, two in North Carolina and one each in Iowa, Florida, New Mexico and West Virginia, according to statistics from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Lightning is the third greatest storm-related killer in the United States and causes nearly \$1 billion in damages each year. Over the past 10 years, on average, lightning has directly killed about 37 people per year in the U.S. and indirectly killed about a dozen more due to fires caused by lightning. The top states for lightning deaths in 2014 were Florida, with six deaths and Wisconsin with three deaths. Arizona, Arkansas, Colorado, Georgia and Massachusetts each had two deaths. Seven additional states reported one lightning death in 2014: California, Michigan, Missouri, Mississippi, New Mexico, Pennsylvania and Texas.

There is no safe place outside when a thunderstorm is in the area. If you hear thunder, you need to get inside a safe place immediately, avoid contact with plumbing and anything plugged into an electrical outlet, stay off corded phones, and stay away from windows and doors. Remain there for

30 minutes after the last lightning or thunder. Remember...

When Thunder Roars, Go Indoors!

Each year, lightning causes about:

- 25,000 total fires
- 4,400 home structure fires
- 1,800 non-home structure fires
- 12 fire-related deaths

Each year, lightning is responsible for approximately:

- 37 direct deaths
- 300 injuries
- 200,000 insurance claims
- \$1 billion in damages

IF YOUR HOME IS STRUCK BY LIGHTNING

- Evacuate your home immediately if you see fire or smoke and call 911
- Call your local fire department and, if possible, have them check for hot spots in your walls with thermal imaging equipment
- Make sure all smoke detectors are powered and operating properly
- If needed, have a licensed electrician check the wiring in your home

Lightning: What You Need to Know

NO PLACE outside is safe when thunderstorms are in the area!!

If you hear thunder, lightning is close enough to strike you.

When you hear thunder, immediately move to safe shelter: a substantial building with electricity or plumbing or an enclosed, metal-topped vehicle with windows up.

Stay in safe shelter at least 30 minutes after you hear the last sound of thunder.

When a Safe Building or Vehicle is Nearby

There is little you can do to substantially reduce your risk if you are outside in a thunderstorm. The only completely safe action is to get inside a safe building or vehicle.

Plan Ahead - Your best source of up-to-date weather information is a NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Portable weather radios are handy for outdoor activities. If you don't have NWR, stay up to date via internet, smart phone, radio or TV. If you're in a group, make sure the group has a lightning safety plan and are ready to use it. If you're in a large group, you'll need extra time to get everyone to a safe place. NWS recommends having proven professional lightning detection equipment that will alert your group when lightning is nearing the event site.

Coach of Outdoor Sports Team - Your little league team has an evening game at the local recreational park. The weather forecast calls for partly cloudy skies, with a chance of thunderstorms by early evening. When you arrive at the park, you notice the only safe buildings are the restrooms. Shortly after sunset, the sky gets cloudy and you see bright flashes in the sky. What should you do? Get everyone into vehicles or the restrooms. Do NOT stay in the dugouts; they are not safe during lightning activity. Once in a

safe place, wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before resuming play.

At the Beach or Lake - Your family plans to go to the beach today. The weather forecast calls for a nice morning followed by a 30 percent chance of afternoon thunderstorms. When you get to the beach, you see that the only nearby structures are open-sided picnic shelters. The parking lot is a 5 minute walk from the beach. By early afternoon skies are darkening and hear distant thunder. What should you do? Go to your car! Do NOT seek shelter under the beach picnic shelters. Wait 30 minutes until after the last rumble of thunder before going back to the beach.

Camping, Climbing and Other Wilderness Activities - When a Safe Location is not Nearby

If you absolutely cannot get to safety, you can slightly lessen the threat of being struck with the following tips. But don't kid yourself--you are NOT safe outside. Know the weather patterns of the area you plan to visit. For example, in mountainous areas, thunderstorms typically develop in the early afternoon, so plan to hike early in the day and be down the mountain by noon. Listen to the weather forecast for the outdoor area you plan to visit. The forecast may be very different from the one near your home. If there is a high chance of thunderstorms, stay inside.

Avoid open fields, the top of a hill or a ridge top.

^ Stay away from tall, isolated trees or other tall objects. If you are in a forest, stay near a lower stand of trees.

^ If you are in a group, spread out to avoid the current traveling between group members.

^ If you are camping in an open area, set up camp in a valley, ravine or other

low area. Remember, a tent offers NO protection from lightning.

^ Stay away from water, wet items, such as ropes, and metal objects, such as fences and poles. Water and metal do not attract lightning but they are excellent conductors of electricity. The current from a lightning flash will easily travel for long distances.

Motorcyclist/Bicyclist - Protect yourself when on a bicycle, motorcycle or dirt bike. Carry a portable NOAA Weather Radio or listen to commercial radio. If you see threatening skies in the distance and you are near a safe building, pull over and wait 30 minutes after the last rumble of thunder before resuming your ride.

On the Water - The vast majority of lightning injuries and deaths on boats occur on small boats with NO cabin. It is crucial to listen to weather information when you are boating. If thunderstorms are forecast, do not go out. If you are out and cannot get back to land and safety, drop anchor and get as low as possible. Large boats with cabins, especially those with lightning protection systems properly installed, or metal marine vessels are relatively safe. Remember to stay inside the cabin and away from any metal surfaces. Stay off the radio unless it is an emergency!

Cavers - Cave entrances are dangerous during thunderstorms. Small overhangs can allow arcs to cross the gap. Even caves that go well into the ground can be struck, either via the entrance or through the ground. Going well into a cave increases your safety somewhat. Once as deep into the caver as possible, avoid touching metal, standing in water and touching both the cave ceiling and floor.

Indoor Lightning Safety

Stay off corded phones, computers and other electrical equipment that put you in direct contact with electricity.

Avoid plumbing, including sinks, baths and faucets.

Stay away from windows and doors, and stay off porches.

Do not lie on concrete floors, and do not lean against concrete walls.

Last Resort Outdoor Risk Reduction Tips

If you are caught outside with no safe shelter anywhere nearby the following actions may reduce your risk:

Immediately get off elevated areas such as hills, mountain ridges or peaks

Never lie flat on the ground

Never shelter under an isolated tree

Never use a cliff or rocky overhang for shelter

Immediately get out and away from ponds, lakes and other bodies of water

Stay away from objects that conduct electricity (barbed wire fences, power lines, windmills, etc.)

Lightning Risk Management for Backcountry Campers and Hikers

http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/resources/backcountry_lightning.pdf

Lightning Safety and Outdoor Sports Activities

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/lightning/sports.shtml>

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/lightning/job.shtml>

Lightning Safety Indoors

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/indoors.shtml>

Lightning Safety for You and Your Family

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/lightning/resources/lightning-safety.pdf>

Lightning and Fires

<http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/fire.shtml>

http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/resources/Lightning_your_home.pdf

Insurance Losses Due To Lightning

<http://www.iii.org/fact-statistic/lightning>

Lightning Protection

<http://lightning.org/>

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4. You Asked: When cooling a hot horse after exercise, many people simply spray the horse all over with water and do not scrape away the excess. Does it really offer a benefit to spray the entire body as opposed to just the legs and belly?

Spraying water on a hot horse to cool it off promotes convection cooling and assists the horse in lowering its core temperature. The reason you spray the legs and belly is because the blood vessels are closer to the

skin in those locations, and it promotes faster cooling of the horse's core temperature by carrying the cooler blood to the heart.

Another important part of cooling out horses is evaporation. After the horse has been sprayed off, it is very important to scrape the water off. This is because once the horse is sprayed, the water absorbs the horse's heat and becomes warm. In order for evaporation to occur effectively, this warm water must be removed. This process can be repeated until the horse's temperature comes down (i.e. spray then scrape, spray again then scrape again, etc.). If the water is not scraped off, it could act as an insulating layer and actually make the horse hotter than when you started.

In extreme circumstances, ice can be added to water for sponging to increase the speed of cooling the core temperature. It is commonly thought that ice will be a shock to the horse's system and could cause tying-up (muscle cramping); however, with extreme heat and internal body temperatures this is not the case. If a horse is prone to tying up, it may be recommended to not directly apply the ice to the large gluteal muscles in the hind end, but focus on those key areas where the blood vessels are more superficial (the belly and inside of legs and thighs).

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5. Severe Weather Prep

Summer brings in all sorts of joys and fun, however it can bring some nasty storms as well.

Now is the time to make sure you have your barns and pastures prepped for any type of weather that might come your way.

Tornadoes: During a strong wind event of any type (Hurricanes included) your animals are safer outside. They have a natural instinct to turn away from the wind to keep wind and water out of their faces. Being confined inside a barn can cause anxiety as well as injury/death in the event that your barn be blown down.

Lightning: If you are experiencing a lightning storm your horses are safer inside the barn. Lightning strikes the tallest object so if your horse is in the middle of a field they will be the target. Keep them inside a barn away from the tallest point (if your barn is an "A" frame) and keep them out of standing water. Also you can install a lightning rod and have a

grounding system in place for your barn.

Drought: You have plenty of time to prepare for a drought. I suggest having a drought plan regardless of what the weatherman has said. Here are some things to consider:

- Stockpile hay if possible. Identify backup sources for hay.
- Identify alternate water sources. This is especially important if you rely on surface water or a shallow well. A horse's water intake needs increase during hot, dry periods.
- Be alert to fire hazards. The risk of fire increases during a drought.
- Remove horses from pasture to maintain the health of the pasture and the horses.
- Look for poisonous plants. When feed is short, or horses are hungry, plants normally avoided become a tempting source of feed.

Flood: On the coastline we are well aware of the dangers associated with flooding. Flash flooding can occur during any significant rain event whether short lived or a few days long. Have a plan in place and watch the weather to keep your horses (and other outside animals safe).

- Have an evacuation plan.
- Watch for down power lines.
- Have an electrical generator and supply of fuel ready on higher ground. A generator is a critical piece of equipment to have during a power outage.
- Scout for debris before returning horses to paddocks and pastures. Significant amounts of debris can be deposited in pastures and paddocks after a flood.
- Listen for reports of infectious disease outbreaks. Outbreaks of diseases such as anthrax or Potomac Horse Fever can occur among animals in some areas of the country, particularly during hot weather that immediately follows a flood.

Always be prepared for the worse and hope for the best! Check out this link for more information on Barn Prepping:

http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/care/barn-disaster-planning/#Severe_weather

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6. Steps to Minimize Weeds in Horse Pastures

The biggest challenge to pasture management is weed control. Weeds are

persistent, seed prolifically, and can spread very quickly. In general, weeds are less palatable, less nutritious, and lower yielding than the recommended grass species. Some weeds present in grass pastures are also toxic to our equine friends. Poisonous plants such as wild cherry, common milkweed, horsenettle, and black nightshade can be harmful, sometimes deadly if consumed. For more information on plants poisonous to livestock in NC visit: http://harvest.cals.ncsu.edu/applications/plant_biology/poisonous/

So, what can you do to minimize weeds from taking over your horse pasture? Here are a few suggestions that can be incorporated into your pasture management plan.

1. **Avoid Overgrazing-** Make sure you are correctly stocking your pasture with the number of horses it can support (trial and error is the best way to determine this number). Anytime you overstock you are weakening your forage and giving weeds an opportunity to move into any bare spots.
2. **Soil Testing Every 2-3 Years-** This is the trick to maintaining optimal nutritional levels that the grass in your pasture needs to be viable. See your local Extension agent for more information and to obtain soil testing boxes. When you get your results back, your Extension agent will be happy to help you understand what your pasture may need: phosphorous, lime, potassium, etc.
3. **Resting Pastures-** This can be done through rotational grazing. If horses are always turned out on the same pasture every day with no rest, that is a lot of pressure on the grass to perform all year long. Some NC pastures are cool-season and some are warm-season, each having an off-season. Therefore, your horses can do serious damage in the off-season. If you only have one pasture, consider dividing it in half and resting one side at a time. You can also develop a dry lot so your horses can spend so many hours off the pasture. During the rest period you can mow, fertilize, and spray for weeds.

Thick, well established forage will win against weeds. However, you have to be a good pasture manager in order for this to happen. Weeds can be brought into your pastures in a variety of ways including: birds, air, clothing, equipment, etc. It is best to have an Extension agent or someone familiar with weed identification to help you to identify the weed(s) you are dealing with to take the best approach in controlling it.

For more information please visit: <http://www.extension.umn.edu/agriculture/horse/pasture/grass-pasture-weed-control/>

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7. Safety at A Horse Event

Horse shows can be hectic, but there should always be enough time for safety. Upon arrival at the event, inspect the horse and tack stalls for safety hazards to people and horses. Look for nails, loose boards or other hazardous objects that are potential problems. Check for electrical wires and outlets that are exposed and otherwise unsafe. The tack room and aisle ways should be free from debris and always clear and open. Inspect for fire hazards in and around the stall area.

Closely inspect wash racks before rinsing or bathing the horse. Slick concrete floors, missing or stopped-up drains and loose bricks or concrete can cause severe injury to horses and people. Any of these problems should be reported to the event manager immediately.

Indoor and outdoor arenas, rings or riding areas should be observed prior to riding or exercising the horse.

Unsafe footing, abnormally dark corners or potentially dangerous fence line objects should be noted and subsequently avoided until corrected by management. Low-hanging lights, rafters or overhead doors may appear to be safe while the rider is on the ground; however, they may cause a safety threat to both horse and rider while the rider is mounted. Elimination of potentially unsafe situations can increase the chances for a fun-filled horse show.

Equestrian safety helmets can significantly reduce head injury to the horseback rider. Each year more than 120,000 horseback riders are treated at hospital emergency rooms in the United States. Approximately 20 percent of these injuries are head injuries, thus emphasizing the need for all riders to wear safety helmets. Safety helmets and harness to secure the helmet are too often overlooked as a tool to reduce injury and death to horseback riders.

There is no such thing as a totally safe horse. Horses just have varying degrees of training. Typically, the better trained horse is a safer horse. Allowing youth to ride “greenbroke” horses at horse events is a serious safety violation and can result in severe injury. On the other hand, horses ridden for years on the farm may be totally unacceptable mounts in a horse show environment. The noise, people, vehicles, trailers and other horses can often cause trained and untrained horses to buck or rear. Horseback riders should not expose themselves to danger with an unfamiliar horse.

Beware of horses with behavioral problems. Some horses will kick other horses or riders as they approach or pass them. Others horses may kick or bite while tied in an alleyway. Always use precautions while walking near or around all horses. A horse that kicks should have a red ribbon attached to its tail. The red ribbon is a universal sign that the horse tends to kick. Stay well clear of a horse with a red ribbon on its tail.

Exhibitors should always practice show-ring courtesy. Riders should maintain a safe distance from other exhibitors and pass with care. Failure to follow show ring instructions promptly can cause unsafe riding conditions, as horses may be executing different gaits and traveling at different speeds.

Although it may be convenient, do not tie horses to an unstable object. Horses should be tied to secure objects such as stall walls, sturdy fences or a horse trailer with appropriate tie hooks or specific hitching rail. Never tie a horse with the reins. Remove the bit and bridle and tie with a halter and lead rope. These simple procedures may prevent an injury to the horse or even a spectator.

Tying to horse trailers that are not hooked to a vehicle is a very popular but unsafe practice. Small trailers that are parked on a slope may start to roll with a small amount of pull from a horse. These unattached trailers are generally convenient and safe if properly blocked and secured. Completely close and latch all trailer doors to prevent them from abruptly opening due to wind or other movements and causing injury to the horse.

Do not attach a horse in any way to the exhibitor or rider. It is a serious mistake to wrap a lead rope tightly around a hand or arm. Many serious accidents have resulted from this mistake.

Many injuries occur while exhibitors are grooming their horses. One of the most common injuries to exhibitors is injury to their feet. Leather shoes with hard soles or boots are a must while working around the horse. Tennis shoes are unsafe and should never be worn when working with a horse. The horse may step on an exhibitor as an escape response to grooming or to avoid and dislodge flies. Reducing fly annoyance is a safety precaution and provides more comfort to the horse.

While brushing or grooming the horse, always keep the free hand on the horse as a method to push away from the horse in case of emergency. This practice also keeps you and the horse in direct communication. Never get directly in front or behind the horse. The horse cannot see directly behind it. The closer you are to the horse, the less likely you are to be injured from a kick. You can also keep your hand on the horse as you walk around just to let the horse know everything is all right. Do not try to go in front of the horse in a restricted area and never go underneath a horse, regardless of the age or presumed safety of the mount.

One of the most common occasions for a horse to escape from its handler at a horse show is during the change from a leather or nylon work halter to a show halter. Show halters should be put on horses in the stall or outside with ample assistance. The nylon work halter should be unbuckled, taken off the head and buckled around the horse's neck before the show halter is put on the horse. The work halter should not be removed from around the horse's neck until the show halter is completely fastened and secure.

Many horse and rider injuries occur because the rider surprised the horse and the horse overreacted, causing an injury. Always approach the horse toward the head and shoulder, giving verbal greetings. Never surprise a horse from behind. Always give the horse a rub on the neck along with kind words after the approach.

Although rarely discussed as a safety problem, family and personal safety against theft and bodily harm should be practiced at all times. Young people should avoid unfamiliar people, places and situations and always stay with their family and friends. Trucks, trailers, purses, tack and equipment could also be easy prey for vandalism or theft. Always secure valuables, not only during non-show hours, but also during the show itself. Exhibitors cannot be too careful.

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8. Ascarids in horses

Craig Wood, University of Kentucky

Internal parasites are small organisms that live a portion of their life cycle in a host animal--in this case, the horse. They live in internal organs, body cavities, and tissues while gaining their nutritive source by feeding on the host animal. The horse is affected by many different species of parasites. The nature and extent of damage varies with the parasite.

Parasite infestation causes loss of nutrients or blood from the host, resulting in serious medical problems. Horses heavily burdened with parasites will have a loss of condition due to a depletion of nutrients and blood, decreased growth, and reduced reproductive and athletic performance.

Numerous internal parasites infect horses, but there are only a few that commonly cause significant health problems. To establish an effective parasite control program, it is important to first understand the life cycle of parasites. Successful prevention and control programs are effective because they interrupt the life cycle of parasites. In some areas of the country, the primary class of internal parasites that cause health problems for horses are nematodes, such as large and small strongyles, ascarids, and tapeworms. Other internal parasites perhaps of lesser significance, such as pinworms and botfly larvae, are also often considered when designing a parasite control program.

Ascarids, *Parascaris equorum*, the horse roundworm, is a very large (females may be up to 15 inches long), yellowish white parasite that may pass out in the feces of foals and young horses. Typically, adult horses develop an immunity to this parasite; therefore, roundworms primarily infect young horses less than 2 years of age.

The life cycle of the roundworm starts when the susceptible horse consumes grass, feed, or water contaminated with the infective eggs. The eggs hatch larvae that burrow into the small intestines, migrating through veins to the liver, heart, and eventually the lungs. After migrating in the air spaces of the lungs, the parasite larvae are coughed up and swallowed. The roundworm larvae are returned to the small intestine, where they mature to egg-producing adults, completing the life cycle. The life cycle takes about three months.

Physical damage, such as inflammation and scarring of liver and lung tissue, occur in the horse during migration. Adult roundworms can cause physical damage due to intestinal blockage or intestinal rupture. The damage ranges from mild digestive upset and lower feed absorption to severe colic.

Clinical signs of ascarid infection may include un-thriftiness, potbelly, rough hair coat, and slow growth. Some young horses develop nasal discharge accompanied by a cough

as a result of larvae migration.

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9. Basic Dental Care For Horses

Dental checkups are essential for horses. As a horse becomes older, the shape and angle of its teeth begin to change and some problems may occur. Knowing what problem signs to look for will help prevent further dental problems. This article explains what an owner and an equine dentist should look for when examining a horse's teeth, based on the age of the horse.

By Dr. Jenifer Nadeau, Equine Extension Specialist, University of Connecticut

When was the last time you had your horse's teeth checked? If you're like most horse owners, you may not be aware that all horses should receive a complete dental exam at least yearly, starting from their first year of life. By the time most horse owners recognize that a horse is having trouble eating or is losing weight, that horse's teeth may be severely abnormal.

Equine dentists or equine veterinarians that perform dentistry have to look for different situations in the horse's mouth at different stages of the horse's life. The following table lists situations that are most common at these stages.

Birth – 18 months

(should be examined at least once a year) Will be evaluated for:

Defects that the horse may have been born with related to head symmetry or chewing function

Proper eruption of teeth

Incisor alignment

Sharp enamel points on teeth

Improper position and number of teeth

Abnormal wear

18-52 months

(should be examined twice a year) Will be evaluated for:

Eruption cysts in the gums over permanent teeth

Gingivitis (inflammation of gums)

Periodontal disease

Loose or infected caps or cap slivers (A cap is the remnant of the crown of a deciduous tooth after the roots has been resorbed.)

Sharp enamel points on the premolar, molar and wolf teeth (These are the first upper premolars that are not fully functional or formed.)

Unequal eruption of permanent incisors

Wolf teeth interference with bit

Rounding of edges of front cheek teeth (first premolar) to keep biting comfortable

4-10 years

(should be examined once a year) Will be evaluated for:

Contact and balance of bite surface

Sharp enamel points on cheek teeth

Sharp edges of cheek teeth which interfere with the bit

Jaw balance

Symmetry, contact, length and balance of incisors

10-18 years

(should be examined once a year) Will be evaluated for:

Abnormalities of wear that can lead to abnormal crown wear, crown fracture and periodontal disease

“Wave” mouth due to abnormalities of wear on central molars making teeth look wave-like

Sharp enamel points on teeth that may require extensive correction (hooks,* ramps** or beaks***)

Balance of tooth alignment

Length of canine teeth if needed

18 and older

(may need frequent oral exams and dental maintenance to keep mouth healthy)

Periodontal disease (60 percent to 80 percent incidence)

Tartar accumulation

Gingivitis

Tooth loosening

Loss of grinding surface of teeth

Abnormalities of wear

Need for geriatric diet

Sharp enamel points on teeth (hooks, ramps or beaks)

Balance between upper and lower jaws

Signs of Dental Problems

These are signs that a horse is having problems with his teeth:

long, unchewed particles of hay in manure

changes in eating or drinking habits

irregular movement of lower jaw

bumps or enlargement on jaw/side of face

abnormal tongue carriage

sharp points on front of first lower or upper molars

oral pain

head shy

quidding – dropping partially chewed food from mouth

weight loss

halitosis

abnormal slurping sound during chewing

food pocketing between teeth

loosening and loss of teeth

lacerations of cheek and tongue

“hamster-like” cheek swelling

very slow chewing

inappetence

holding head in abnormal position during eating

using one side of the mouth for chewing

reluctance to eat hay

spending more time eating

abnormal head carriage
resistance to bit
head shaking during work
foul smelling, chronic nasal discharge from one nostril
excess salivation
bleeding from mouth
swelling or distortion of lips
tooth displacement

Equine Dentists

Next, you might be wondering how to go about selecting an equine dentist or equine veterinarian that specializes in dentistry. Keep in mind, some states only allow veterinarians to perform dentistry procedures. An equine dentist does not have to be certified; therefore, there is no universal standard of quality. You might consider checking to see if the equine dentist is a member of the International Association of Equine Dentistry, an organization of non-veterinary equine dental practitioners that has set certain standards. You may want to check to see if a veterinarian is a member of the American Veterinary Dental Society or has a fellowship in the Academy of Veterinary Dentistry. Additionally, the veterinarian could have taken continuing education classes in dentistry offered by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Word of mouth or referral is another good way to find an equine dentist or veterinarian. Also, keep in mind, it's not unreasonable to meet with a dentist and watch the dentist work on another client's horse before making an appointment.

Summary

Hopefully, this information has enhanced your knowledge of equine dentistry and its importance. Please do not attempt to perform dental procedures on your horse yourself. Seek an experienced equine dentist or equine veterinarian to undertake this necessary care for your horse. Proper dental care from the beginning of your horse's life can help eliminate problems before they start.

Resources

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Thomas HS. October 2004. Getting to the root of it. *Stable Management* 26-29.

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10. Dressage at Lexington

July 10 - 12, 2015

Qualifying show for the 2015 USDF Breeders Championship, East Coast Series "Official Qualifying Competition for the 2015 Markel/USEF Young and Developing Horse Dressage Championships; the 2015 USEF Pony Rider Dressage National Championship; 2015 AGCO/USEF Junior and Young Rider Dressage National Championships; and the 2015 USEF Young Adult 'Brentina Cup' Dressage National Championships presented by Dressage Today."

The Sporting Horse Amateur Challenge

Sponsored by The Horse of Course

Compete with your peers for great prizes and fun.

\$2000 Prize money for the USDF and FEI Musical Freestyles

Sponsored by Gardy Bloemers and the Virginia Horse Center Foundation.

\$1000 in Prize money in the Sport Horse Division

NEW Two Tempi Challenge How many two tempis can you do? Open, Amateur and Stick Horse classes. Sponsored by the Grubers.

<http://www.dressageatlexington.com/>

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11. Fiore Farms Activities

Fiore Farms Horse Camp - July 13th-17th

Contact BellEquine@gmail.com for more info

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12. HAY

In the past couple of weeks we have had a lot of hay cut. With it getting so dry, Please make sure you are managing your grass if you are grazing or cutting for hay. Let grass grow to proper height before harvesting and once you do, pull animals off when taken down to proper height.

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE HAY FOR SALE!

A Hay Directory is maintained by the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service for the Rockingham County and Guilford County area. This directory is intended as a service to both hay producers and buyers in the area. If you are in need of hay or would like to be added (or removed) from this list please call me at [1-800-666-3625](tel:1-800-666-3625) or [342-8235](tel:342-8235) and let me know your name, address & phone #, type of hay, number of bales, (square or round bales) and weight per bale.

MANAGE YOUR PASTURES!

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13. Swap Shop

No Ads Listed this Week

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14. Take A Load Off

I need your clean Jokes, so please send em to me! -

Thanks For This Send In

After having a disagreement, an old married couple drove down a country lane for several minutes without saying a word to each other. Both believed they were right, and neither wanted to give in.

They approached a pasture with a pack of mules.

"Relatives of yours?" the husband asked, gesturing at the group of animals.

"Yep," the wife replied. "In-laws."

I always need more help with the jokes!

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I always want to know what you think of the **Weekly Pile**, good or bad,
Especially if it has had **ANY IMPACT** on you. Let me hear from you!

PLEASE SEND TO ME YOUR IDEAS FOR ARTICLES IN FUTURE NEWSLETTERS!

I WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!!

**Please remember our Troops who are serving our
Country (and their families), those who have come home
with wounds, and the families that paid the ultimate
sacrifice.**

HAVE A SAFE

WEEKEND!

Ben

--
Ben Chase

**Rockingham and Guilford County Extension Agent
Agriculture & Livestock**

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<http://rockingham.ces.ncsu.edu/index.php?page=animalagriculture>