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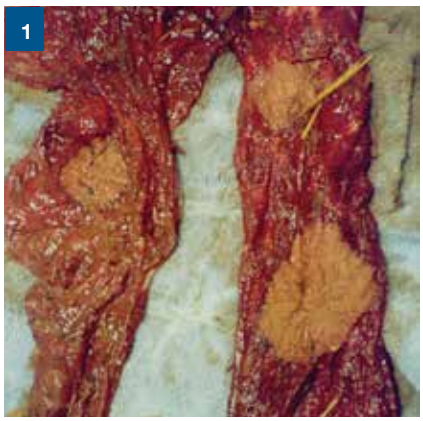
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Chicago Police Mounted Unit demonstrates the benefits of the human-equine bond

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Editor
Mark Thill
mthill@vet-advantage.com

Managing Editor
Graham Garrison
ggarrison@vet-advantage.com

Senior Editor
Laura Thill
lthill@vet-advantage.com

Contributing Editor
Jennifer Ryan
jryan@vet-advantage.com

Contributing Editor
David Thill
dthill@vet-advantage.com

Art Director
Brent Cashman
bcashman@vet-advantage.com

Vice President of Sales & Marketing
Rick Boggess
rboggess@vet-advantage.com

Senior Account Executive
Kim Long
klong@vet-advantage.com

Western Regional Sales Manager
Doreen Carpenter
dcarpenter@vet-advantage.com

Production Manager
and Digital Strategist
Paige Kelly
pkelly@vet-advantage.com

Director of Marketing and Training
Rachel Bailey
rbailey@vet-advantage.com

Circulation
Laura Gantert
lgantert@vet-advantage.com

President & Publisher
Chris Kelly
ckelly@vet-advantage.com

Photography by Sarah Jean Condon

Corporate Headquarters
3628 Blakeford Club Dr.
Marietta, GA 30062
866-388-8212 phone
866-615-9232 fax

2016 editorial board

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BY DAVID THILL

The Human-Equine Bond

When people talk about the "human-animal bond," they're not always talking about dogs and cats. The relationship between horse owners and their horses is an interesting topic for discussion and study as well.

"Horse owners and caretakers vary considerably in their attitudes toward their horses, from almost family-member-like attitudes and interaction, as some dog and cat owners have," says Sue McDonnell, MS, PhD, adjunct professor of reproductive behavior, New Bolton Center Hospital for Large Animals, University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, and founding head of the University's Equine Behavior Program.

"I am not sure of the metric one would use to compare, but the real financial and the apparent emotional investment can be huge, in my opinion, sometimes to a fault, in that the horse's welfare is compromised for the sake of the owner, or the interaction with the horse is so anthropomorphically off base that the horse's welfare is compromised, just as so often [is the case] with household pets."



"The horse usually does not seem to be as bonded to the owner as the owner is to the horse."

– Sue McDonnell

Horses differ from companion-animal pets in that they usually do not live so closely with their owners, continues McDonnell. "Also, the relationship between horse and owner is typically different from dogs in that the horse usually does not seem to be as bonded to the owner as the owner is to the horse. Dogs tend to show much more behavior suggesting bonding – for example, separation stress."

Mismatches between horses and owners occur all the time, says McDonnell. "Some trainers and owners are ill-trained in learning theory. Certain individual horses, and some breeds, are better able to handle this stress without becoming dangerous with punitive poor training.

"We say, for example, some lines of stock Quarter Horses 'can take a lickin' and keep on tickin,'" she says. "Saddlebred horses can take outright torture and anise that is accepted as good training, yet most do not become explosively dangerous, as most Thoroughbreds would."

HABRI-funded study

The Human Animal Bond Research Initiative Foundation, or HABRI, is currently funding a study conducted by Daniel Stroud of Oregon State University that is focused on the human-horse bond and its impact on trauma survivors, says HABRI Executive Director Steve Feldman.

"Victims of trauma can especially benefit from animal therapy involving horses," he says. "Studies have focused specifically on the impact of interacting with a horse as well as the impact of riding a horse. A horse's high sensitivity and responsiveness to human body language is used as an aid for therapy patients to improve their own awareness of their emotions and communication. Riding horses or hippotherapy utilizes equine movement as a therapy and has been effective for people with various conditions to help improve quality of life."

The aim of the Oregon State study is to determine the influence equine-facilitated group psychotherapy has on 42 women trauma survivors' post-trauma symptoms, as well as what each of these women consider their own most personally meaningful incidents throughout their treatment experience.

Researchers expect to find improvements for symptoms of anxiety, depression, bodily dissociation, bodily awareness, self-esteem and self-worth among the participants. In addition, they anticipate individuals will consider their interactions with their equine partner, and other women in the group, as the most personally meaningful aspects of treatment.

Data collected thus far indicates each participant has improved in terms of lower levels of depression, anxiety and dissociative tendencies. Gains were also made in terms of improved post-traumatic cognitions, mindfulness and bodily awareness. ■

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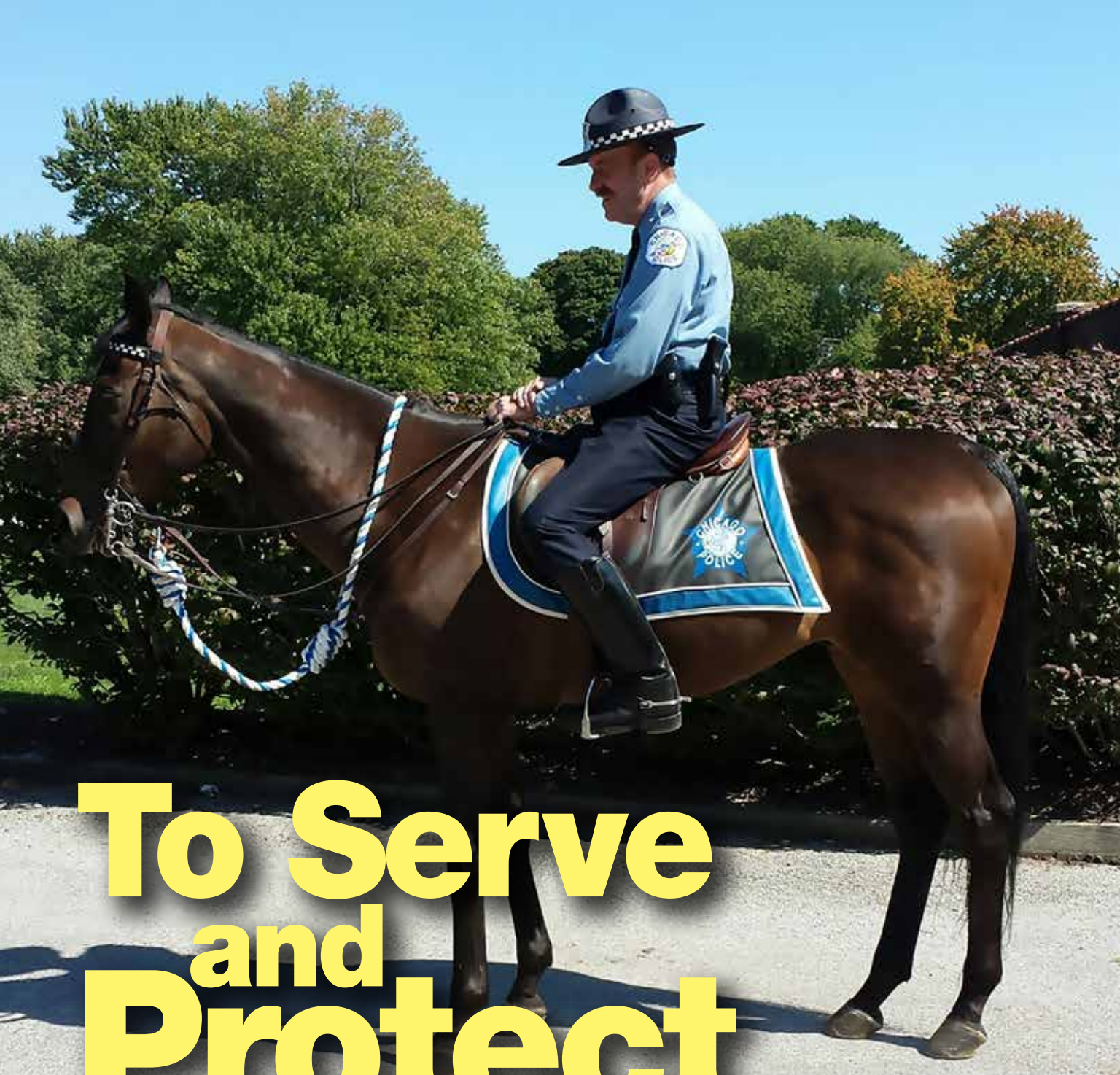
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To Serve and Protect

Chicago Police Mounted Unit demonstrates the benefits of the human-equine bond

Born on the Far South Side of Chicago, the son of a Chicago police officer, Mike Clisham may seem like an unlikely horseman. Yet he works with horses, he works on horses, and he trains people who will make their livelihood on horseback. And he does all this in the city of Chicago.

Officer Clisham is a patrolman on the Chicago Police Mounted Unit, and its trainer as well.

Downstate Illinois

His love of horses began when the family moved to a farm in Downstate Illinois when Clisham was a kid. For four years, they lived there with his grandparents, while his dad commuted to Chicago, as he remained an officer on the police force there.

"He hoped to find a job down there and get away from the city," recalls Clisham, but the plan didn't work, and the family eventually moved back to Chicago. But not before Clisham got hooked on horses.

"On Saturday mornings, instead of watching cartoons, I'd tack up a horse and go riding by the river," he says. "It made you feel like a cowboy.

"I hated moving back to Chicago."

After high school, Clisham gravitated in the equine direction again, driving carriages for tourists in Lincoln Park and Michigan Avenue in the city.

In 1991, he joined the force, working in Chicago's Englewood District on the South Side. "I was working a beat, enjoying that; I really didn't think about the Mounted Unit. It wasn't on my radar."

But one day in 1994, as he was leafing through a stack of notices while running a name, Clisham saw that applicants were being accepted for the Mounted Unit. "Had I been there an hour later, I might not have seen it," he says. He applied for the job and was accepted.

Covering more ground

The Chicago Police Department disbanded its original mounted unit in 1948, as motorcycles became the transport of choice. Then in 1974, following a series of assaults in Grant Park by the lake, the unit was brought back. "They figured police could cover more ground in the park on horses," says Clisham.

Just days after completing a 14-week training course, Clisham found himself on a four-year-old Thoroughbred in a pedestrian crossing in the middle of Lake Shore Drive, directing traffic during the World Cup.

"Working that intersection, with cars and buses coming within inches of my knees, it was an awesome feeling," he recalls. "And that horse was rock solid."

"I've always gotten along with horses pretty well," says Clisham. "I've been blessed."

It was his familiarity with handling and riding that led the Unit's former trainer to ask Clisham to break in some new horses, and then to assist with teaching. Today, he is the unit's trainer, drawing on the training regimen of the United States Park Police.



"On Saturday mornings, instead of watching cartoons, I'd tack up a horse and go riding by the river."

The Chicago Police Mounted Unit is budgeted for 24 patrolmen, four sergeants and a lieutenant. When *Veterinary Advantage* spoke with Clisham, 31 horses were in the barn at the South Shore Cultural Center by the lake on the city's South Side.

"Our pass/fail rate is generally around 50 percent," says Clisham, referring to the classes. Few officers applying for a position with the unit have had prior equine experience. Some are attracted to what looks like a comfortable job…until they experience the strength and willpower of a 1,200-pound gelding. "We lose some people because of that, but we lose



others to injuries, or people just aren't getting it quickly enough."

The patrolmen's day begins at 8, when he or she grooms and tacks their horse, then gets dressed in uniform for roll call. By 9, they're loading up the trailer and leaving for the day. (Since 2000, horses are named after Chicago police officers killed in the line of duty.)

In the summer, patrols are assigned to parks on the lakefront; that's when people spend a lot of time on the beaches. During the winter, people move off the lakefront and into the shopping areas, so the patrols tend to ride more on Michigan Ave. and the Loop (Chicago's Downtown business and shopping district).

"Working that intersection, with cars and buses coming within inches of my knees, it was an awesome feeling."

The Mounted Unit works rain or shine, hot or cold. "It's the commanding officer's call if we go out in subzero temperatures," says Clisham. But in the (unlikely) event that the Bears should win the Super Bowl in 2017, the Mounted Unit would be out regardless of the temperature. And when the temperature in Chicago reaches a humid 95 degrees, an officer can always find a shady spot or someplace to catch a breeze. Going down to Lower Wacker Drive or Monroe Street is an option.

Diet and exercise

For 16 years, Ronald Camden, DVM, has been the department's veterinarian, and he is an excellent one, says Clisham. "I hope he doesn't retire before me."

The police horses are on a regular vaccination schedule, and are wormed on a regular basis. The fact that only the department's horses are housed in the Cultural Center means there is minimal risk from communicable disease.

Diet and exercise are the real keys to making a good police horse, says Clisham. "You're not only keeping him healthy, but you're keeping your partnership strong, so you can go out and do your job." An indoor arena provides running space for the horses.

In years past, the department primarily accepted donated horses, but recently, it has taken to purchasing the majority of horses – all geldings. But most often, the unit is looking for horses between the ages of five and 12, though there have been exceptions.

Clisham likes to retire the police horses in their early 20s. "We don't want this to be their retirement," he says, speaking of duty on the police force. Nor does he want them to end up working in a stable that offers riding lessons. His preferred choice is a hippotherapy program, that is, a therapeutic and rehabilitative program for people with physical, sensory or cognitive disabilities. "If they can move on from here and do more good in the world, that's our first choice," he says.

That's what happened to Baldy. Taken in by the force at age 16, Baldy retired last year. Now close to 30, he works in a hippotherapy program. "He has competed in the Special Olympics, and has won nine gold medals," says Clisham, proudly.

Baldy carries the name of Officer Leonard F. Baldy, Star Number 1451, who died in May 1960 in a crash of his traffic helicopter. ■



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Not All Lameness is Osteoarthritis

Veterinarians evaluate each case of lameness for potential signs of osteoarthritis whether in young or old horses

BY JENNIFER RYAN

In horses, it's estimated that up to 60 percent of lameness cases are associated with osteoarthritis. Yet, not every equine lameness case signals the start of this progressive disease that doesn't (yet) have a cure.

That's why veterinarians evaluate each case in detail to determine its cause and outline treatments. Treatment options may be similar to dogs and cats, but the way the disease is expressed – especially in performance horses that are asked to slide, stop or jump – may be dramatically different than in the family dog.

"It's never too early to start a horse on a supplement, and it's a product that can be maintained throughout the horse's lifetime without risk."

– Stacey Buzzell, DVM

Osteoarthritis basics

Equine osteoarthritis (OA), also known as degenerative joint disease (DJD), begins as inflammation that may be due to a variety of factors, including joint instability or exposure to concussive forces, says Aimee Colbath, DVM, and post-doctoral fellow at Colorado State University Equine Orthopaedic Research Center.

"The horse's conformation can dictate predisposition to equine osteoarthritis," Colbath says. "Although some activities in Western performance horses can affect joints more than others. For instance, the sliding stop or cutting horses crouching down. The horses that do this work are often Quarter horses, but that doesn't mean the breed itself is predisposed to the disease."

Whether due to conformation or work, all osteoarthritis begins as inflammation that slowly breaks down cartilage. Cartilage is important to helping bones glide as they move the body. The inflammation breaks down this cartilage, which then leads to erosion of this important buffer. Sometimes, it can even lead to exposed bone.

"The horse's body tries to stabilize the area, which leads to new bone growth," Colbath says. "This can actually fuse joints together in some cases."


Stacey Buzzell

This process can be painful for the horse, which often leads to signs of lameness. A veterinarian is required to determine the source of the lameness.

"Lameness can be a result of a soft tissue injury, ligament straining – like we would sprain an ankle or joint," Colbath says. "OA is common, but it's not the only cause."

Lameness may not even be the first sign of the osteoarthritis, says Stacey Buzzell, DVM.

"It can start as something as simple as not being willing to move forward off the leg or not being as playful in the field," she says. "Owners might notice a change in demeanor or attitude – being less happy or more reluctant to work for you. Then, as things progress, that will lead to signs of lameness."

Owners and trainers must be in tune with the individual horse to know what their "normal" attitude and function is, Buzzell says.



Treatment

Once equine osteoarthritis begins, there's no cure available. However, owners can work with veterinarians to manage, and even slow, the process. There are a range of tools veterinarians can choose from depending on the horse's specific case.

- **Anti-inflammatory drugs:** The best bet veterinarians have at their disposal today is to stop the cycle of inflammation with anti-inflammatory drugs. These drugs can also help manage pain associated with the disease.

- **Interleukin-1 Receptor Antagonist Protein (IRAP):** This helps counteract the cytokines including IL-1 that can lead to further damage due to the cycle of inflammation and joint damage.

- **Intra-articular medications:** Hyaluronic acid or polysulfated glycosaminoglycans can help improve the quality of the joint fluid at the inflamed joint and promote the gliding action that the disease diminishes.

- **Management:** Sometimes, corrective shoeing can help change the horse's conformation enough to remove stress on the affected joint. Keeping the horse moving also can help support continued joint function and maintain a healthy weight, which helps put less pressure on the joints.

"We recommend a longer period of warming up and cooling down for affected horses," Colbath says. "Warm up may take a bit longer for these horses than it used to, but continued movement can help support healthy joint function."

Prevention

There are several supplements that claim to help prevent the development of equine osteoarthritis, but it can be difficult to determine what will work for a specific horse, Colbath says.

On the other hand, there's no penalty for using a supplement. Colbath recommends looking for products with veterinarian support, which often have better quality control than others.

While there are few studies looking at joint supplements as an OA preventive, the major ingredients include singularly or combinations of glucosamine, chondroitin sulfate or avocado/soybean unsaponifiables (ASU).

"Reducing inflammation can help slow the process that may be occurring," Buzzell says. "It's never too early to start a horse on a supplement. It's a product that can be maintained throughout the horse's lifetime to help maintain joint health."

Veterinarians and horse owners are constantly working against osteoarthritis, she says. Anything in the arsenal that can prevent or help slow the disease helps horses have higher quality, longer lives. ■

Raising the Bar on Equine Dentistry

When it comes to the horse's teeth, the best thing you can do is find the problem before it's a problem.

BY DAVID THILL

"Dentistry is sometimes thought of as a 'cookbook' thing where you just take some tooth material off and you're done," says Bruce Whittle, DVM, co-founder of Honey Creek Veterinary Hospital in Trenton, Mo. "But that shouldn't be true. The most important part of dentistry is doing a good thorough exam. Dental care is just a part of the total healthcare for a horse."

Stephen Galloway, DVM, founder of Animal Care Hospital in Oakland, Tenn., and the former chair of the American Association of Equine Practitioners's Dentistry Committee, agrees that routine examinations are the key to early disease prevention. "You don't have any signs until the disease is severe, and you want to catch it before it gets to that point," he says.



The learning curve

Equine dentistry is a relatively new specialty, but it has always been a subject of study, says Galloway. "I have books from the 1800s about dentistry in horses," he says, but "starting in the [1990s], we saw a resurgence in dental equine research." With growing popularity in continuing education, he believes the trend is a chain: As more equine veterinarians are educated about the importance of dentistry, they educate more horse owners. That leads to more dental procedures being performed.

"[O]ur dental equine knowledge is exponentially growing," says Galloway. "As we're educating, things are changing. The problem we have now is keeping up." Despite its ever-growing nature, however, the education is important, he notes. "In general, the higher your education about healthcare, the better your decisions will be.

"My goal is to educate an owner so they can make an informed decision …. That's why you have to educate people: so they can do what's right for them and their horse."

Whittle also believes in the value of education. In his experience, while horse owners don't resist dental care, they sometimes lack interest in it because they don't understand its importance.

It's up to the veterinarian to help owners recognize that importance. "Some veterinarians don't promote dental care because they feel inadequate in their knowledge, or they don't think dental care is important," says Whittle. "They think tooth floating is all there is to it."

This is where the distributor rep comes in, he says. If a rep is educated about what constitutes high quality dental care, what equipment is available, and is familiar with the appropriate sedatives and local anesthetics, then they can pass that information on to the veterinarian. "[Reps] need to have a working knowledge so they can help educate veterinarians."

Early action, early prevention

Science is beginning to show the importance of oral health in horses, says Galloway. It "has a direct effect on systemic health," from sinus issues to other issues. He notes that in many other mammal species, oral health has been shown to affect heart, liver, and kidney infections, and in humans, there is a direct association between periodontal disease and diabetes. He believes horses are similar, and that new research will demonstrate the similarities.

Misaligned teeth are an important problem for horse owners to be aware of, as it leads to more critical issues such as periodontal disease, tooth loss, and bone infection, says Galloway. Whittle also considers periodontal disease among the "top three" dental problems he sees in horses, in addition to sharp enamel point and elongated teeth due to improper wear.

Both doctors agree that the best preventive measure against dental disease is the routine examination. "You can either do dentistry as a 'salvage procedure,' or you can try to prevent dental or oral health problems through…early diagnoses," says Galloway. "If you can catch it early and treat it early, then you're going to have less problems." Every horse is different, and depending on activity level, some will need to be examined more often than others, he adds.

Whittle believes all horses should receive at least one oral examination per year, to identify problems early. Younger horses (from birth to five years of age) often need to be examined 2-3 times per year, since it is during this stage of development that they lose their baby teeth and erupt a permanent set. Older horses might also need more frequent check-ups, he notes, especially if periodontal disease is an issue.

Science is beginning to show the importance of oral health in horses, says Galloway. It "has a direct effect on systemic health," from sinus issues to other issues. He notes that in many other mammal species, oral health has been shown to affect heart, liver, and kidney infections, and in humans, there is a direct association between periodontal disease and diabetes. He believes horses are similar, and that new research will demonstrate the similarities.

Equipment needed

When it comes to the equipment veterinarians use to conduct examinations and perform odontoplasty (float teeth), "there's not one piece of equipment that's going to be able to address every area of the mouth," says Whittle. While it continues to evolve and improve, much of today's equine dental equipment follows the same basic design from when it was first invented. (Whittle notes that some of these designs date as far back as the 1800s.) Now it is more polished, particularly from a workload standpoint.

From Galloway's perspective, the biggest improvement in equine dentistry in the past 10 years has been the introduction of oral imaging techniques such as oral endoscopy. He finds these techniques convenient: His oral endoscope feeds onto his iPad, which owners can watch while he performs the examination. However, the technology has not been advanced or implemented on a commercial level yet. The best scopes available now are being "MacGyvered," he notes, and the industry as a whole needs to address that issue.

A fit for everybody

In 2014, the American Veterinary Medical Association began recognizing the American Veterinary Dental College Equine Specialty as part of its American Board of Veterinary Specialties. With the recognition of the equine dental specialty, both Galloway and Whittle foresee even more research advancement. "It's a step toward improving the science of equine dentistry rather than just the art," says Whittle. Having an equine dental specialty will help "raise the bar on equine dentistry."

"Everybody benefits from having a specialty base," says Galloway, emphasizing that having specialists in the field will not diminish the work already being done by general practitioners, but rather will improve standards of care. As he observes, the general practitioner performs most procedures, but they now have the ability to refer the small percentage of cases for which they don't have the training or instrumentation, such as surgeries, to the specialist. "There's a fit for everybody." ■

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Human Warnings: Not for use in humans. For oral use in animals only. Keep this and all drugs out of the reach of children. Pregnant and lactating women should use caution when handling EQUIDONE Gel, as systemic exposure to domperidone may affect reproductive hormones. Consult a physician in case of accidental human exposure.

Precautions: EQUIDONE Gel may lead to premature birth, low birth weight foals or foal morbidity if administered >15 days prior to the expected foaling date. Accurate breeding date(s) and an expected foaling date are needed for the safe use of EQUIDONE Gel. Do not use in horses with suspected or confirmed gastrointestinal blockage, as domperidone is a prokinetic drug (it stimulates gut motility).

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News

Midwest states confirm cases of West Nile, EEE

According to TheHorse.com, animal health officials in Minnesota and Wisconsin have reported new cases of West Nile virus (WNV) and Eastern equine encephalitis (EEE), respectively. The Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC) reported Sept. 13 that the Minnesota Board of Animal Health that a 2-year-old Quarter Horse gelding from Newfolden, in Marshall County, had contracted the disease. "The horse, which had neurologic symptoms, was not vaccinated but is recovering," the EDCC said. Also on Sept. 13, the EDCC indicated that Wisconsin had confirmed an additional EEE case.

Study: Poor living conditions impact equine welfare

According to a new study, french researchers have learned that suboptimal living conditions, such as 24-hour individual stabling and restricted feeding, can make horses less optimistic, TheHorse.com reported. "This constitutes an indispensable step in establishing management practices or working conditions which contribute toward an improvement of the horse's quality of life or toward better prophylactic care such as treatment for back pain," said Séverine Henry, PhD, of the University of Rennes in France. In their study, the horses with the highest levels of welfare also had the highest levels of optimism in their experiments, Henry said. By contrast, however, poor welfare was always associated with pessimism in the study horses. Read more on the study at www.thehorse.com/articles/38090/study-poor-equine-welfare-pessimism-linked

AVMA supports USDA's efforts to end soring of horses

American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) is pleased to see that the USDA has proposed changes to strengthen enforcement of the Horse Protection Act in an effort to put an end to the inhumane practice of soring, the organization said in a release. The USDA now hopes to address the issue of soring through proposed amendments to the Horse Protection Act, which would make two significant changes. First, the USDA-Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) would assume responsibility for training, screening and licensing horse inspectors. Instead of allowing horse industry organizations to handle these responsibilities, which can be ineffective due to conflicts of interest, inspectors would be veterinarians and veterinary technicians required to follow USDA rules and standards of conduct. Second, the USDA-APHIS would ban the use of all action devices, pads, and foreign substances at horse shows, exhibitions, sales, and auctions. This would align the HPA regulations with existing equestrian standards set forth by the U.S. Equestrian Federation. The proposed rule is available for public comment at www.regulations.gov/docket?D=APHIS-2011-0009.

Jaguar Animal Health and Napo Pharmaceuticals announce proposed merger

Jaguar Animal Health, Inc., an animal health company focused on developing and commercializing gastrointestinal products for companion and production animals, foals, and high value horses, announced that it has signed a non-binding letter of intent ("LOI") with Napo Pharmaceuticals, Inc. potentially to merge the two companies. Napo focuses on human product development and commercialization from plants used traditionally in rainforest areas, and has provided Jaguar with exclusive worldwide rights for veterinary applications to crofelemer and corresponding rights to all related Napo technology.



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*Vest available during the dates of December 1-10, 2016. If not attending the convention the order must be faxed to 913-327-0016 attn: Shelly Derks and size noted on order. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery. No exchanges.

****A Maui Jim Representative will be onsite in the Dechra booth for fittings: Monday, December 5th, 12:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. and Tuesday, December 6th, 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Maui Jim Sunglases are ONLY available at the show during these specified fitting times, however orders can be placed at any time during the convention. Maui Jim Sunglasses can only be picked up after an order is placed and turned in. They cannot be shipped post-show, no exceptions. Dechra is not responsible for repair or replacement. Repairs and replacements can be done through any Maui Jim direct retailer.

Product promotions with free goods will run all thru 4th quarter and will be filled by distribution. All qualifying Dechra Veterinary Products must be purchased on a single invoice. Free goods will be the value of lowest price purchased. Place your order with your distributor and reference the "AAEP Promotion" or "4th Quarter Promotion". Distributor will ship free goods. Dechra reserves the right to not supply free goods unless Veterinarian-Client-Patient-Relationship (VCPR) can be clearly demonstrated. Valid for US Veterinarians only.

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