

This Issue:

MLS Laser Therapy 1
 Equine Emergency..... 2
 10 Tips to Prevent Colic 3
 Pet Dental Health..... 4

**Our Annual
Recommendations**

DOGS

Annual Physical Exam
 Deworming
 Heartworm Test +
 Heartworm Preventative
 Flea & Tick Preventative

Vaccinations:

Rabies
 Distemper or
 Distemper + Lepto
 Bordetella
 (Kennel Cough)

CATS

Annual Physical Exam
 Deworming
 Flea & Tick Preventative

Vaccinations:

Rabies
 Distemper or
 Distemper + Leuk

HORSES

Annual Dental Exam
 Spring & Fall
 Deworming

Vaccinations:

Rabies
 West Nile
 Tetanus
 Encephalomyelitis

**Help control the pet
population and
unwanted behaviors
by Spaying &
Neutering.**

MLS Laser Therapy

Republican Valley Animal Center is pleased to announce the addition of laser therapy to our clinics. Lasers have been used in human medicine for the last 30 years and veterinary medicine is now able to reap the benefits of this very valuable tool. MLS Therapy (Multiwave Locked System) lasers utilize the latest technology in therapy lasers, and have been proven to be a safe and effective method to treat a vast variety of conditions. Laser therapy is fast, pain-free and non-invasive, and we are excited to expand our ability to provide high quality medicine to All of our patients.

MLS lasers use a hand piece to deliver light to damaged cells. The light energy stimulates inter-cellular activity, thereby speeding recovery of damaged cells and reducing pain.

Laser therapy can be used in almost any painful or inflammatory condition, including but by no means limited to: post surgical pain, wounds, trauma, abscesses, infections, ear infection/inflammation, anal sacculitis, arthritis, disc disease, tendonitis, cystitis lick granulomas, hip dysplasia, and lameness.

The ten benefits of laser therapy include:

1. Anti-inflammatory
2. Analgesic
3. Accelerated tissue repair and cell growth
4. Improved vascular activity
5. Increased metabolic activity
6. Stimulation of trigger points and acupuncture points
7. Reduced fibrous tissue formation
8. Improved nerve function
9. Immunoregulation
10. Faster wound healing

FELINE



CANINE



Animals can be treated in-house with an average treatment time of about 3 minutes. Many acute conditions will see significant improvement after only one treatment.

Chronic conditions, such as arthritis, will need several treatments to start, possibly followed by monthly follow-up treatments.

Be Prepared for an Equine Health Emergency

If you own horses long enough, sooner or later you are likely to confront a medical emergency. From lacerations to colic to foaling difficulties, there are many emergencies that a horse owner may encounter. You must know how to recognize serious problems and respond promptly, taking appropriate action while awaiting the arrival of your veterinarian.

Preparation is vital when confronted with a medical emergency. No matter the situation you may face, mentally rehearse the steps you will take to avoid letting panic take control. Follow these guidelines from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) to help you prepare for an equine emergency:

Keep your veterinarian's number by each phone, including how the practitioner can be reached after hours.

Consult with your regular veterinarian regarding a back-up or referring veterinarian's number in case you cannot reach your regular veterinarian quickly enough.

Know in advance the most direct route to an equine surgery center in case you need to transport the horse.

Post the names and phone numbers of nearby friends and neighbors who can assist you in an emergency while you wait for the veterinarian.

Prepare a first aid kit and store it in a clean, dry, readily accessible place. Make sure that family members and other barn users know where the kit is. Also keep a first aid kit in your horse trailer or towing vehicle, and a pared-down version to carry on the trail.

First aid kits can be simple or elaborate. Here is a short list of essential items:

- * Cotton roll
- * Cling wrap
- * Gauze pads, in assorted sizes
- * Sharp scissors
- * Cup or container
- * Rectal thermometer with string and clip attached
- * Surgical scrub and antiseptic solution
- * Latex gloves
- * Saline solution
- * Stethoscope
- * Clippers

Many accidents can be prevented by taking the time to evaluate your horse's environment and removing potential hazards. Mentally rehearse your emergency action plan. In an emergency, time is critical. Don't be concerned with overreacting or annoying your veterinarian. By acting quickly and promptly, you can minimize the consequences of an injury or illness.

For more information about emergency care, contact Dr. Jamie Hall at Republican Valley Animal Center. More information can also be obtained by visiting the AAEP's website at www.aaep.org/horseowner.

Reprinted with permission from the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

10 Tips for Preventing Colic

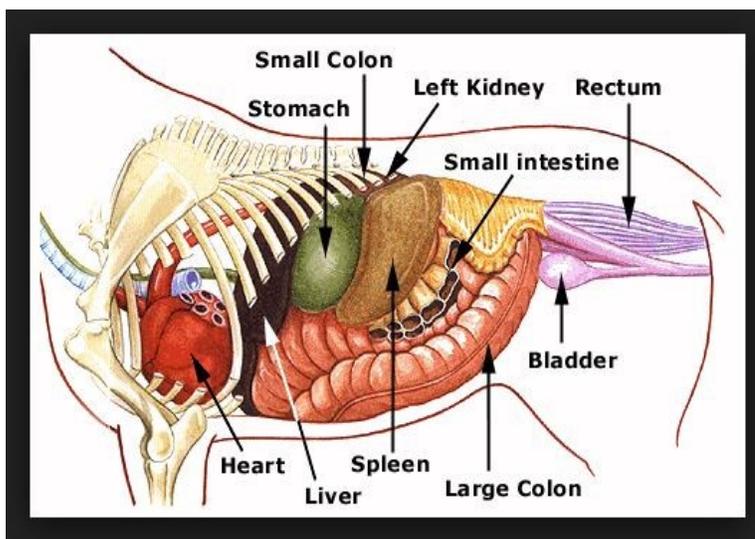
The number one killer of horses is colic. Colic is not a disease, but rather a combination of signs that alert us to abdominal pain in the horse. Colic can range from mild to severe, but it should never be ignored. Many of the conditions that cause colic can become life threatening in a relatively short period of time. Only by quickly and accurately recognizing colic – and seeking qualified veterinary help – can the chance for recovery be maximized.

While horses seem predisposed to colic due to the anatomy and function of their digestive tracts, management can play a key role in prevention. Although not every case is avoidable, the following guidelines from the American Association of Equine Practitioners (AAEP) can maximize the horse's health and reduce the risk of colic:

- * Establish a daily routine – include feeding and exercise schedules – and stick to it.
- * Feed a high quality diet comprised primarily of roughage.
- * Avoid feeding excessive grain and energy-dense supplements. (At least half the horse's energy should be supplied through hay or forage. A better guide is that twice as much energy should be supplied from a roughage source than from concentrates.)
- * Divide daily concentrate rations into two or more smaller feedings rather than one large one to avoid overloading the horse's digestive tract. Hay is best fed free-choice.
- * Set up a regular parasite control program with the help of your equine practitioner.
- * Provide exercise and/or turnout on a daily basis. Change the intensity and duration of an exercise regimen gradually.
- * Provide fresh, clean water at all times. (The only exception is when the horse is excessively hot, and then it should be given small sips of luke-warm water until it has recovered.)
- * Avoid putting feed on the ground, especially in sandy soils.
- * Check hay, bedding, pasture, and environment for potentially toxic substances, such as blister beetles, noxious weeds, and other ingestible foreign matter.
- * Reduce stress. Horses experiencing changes in environment or workloads are at high risk of intestinal dysfunction. Pay special attention to horses when transporting them or changing their surroundings, such as at shows.

Virtually any horse is susceptible to colic. Age, sex, and breed differences in susceptibility seem to be relatively minor. The type of colic seen appears to relate to geographic or regional differences, probably due to environmental factors such as sandy soil or climatic stress. Importantly, what this tells us is that, with conscientious care and management, we have the potential to reduce and control colic, the number one killer of horses.

For more information about colic prevention and treatment, contact Dr. Jamie Hall at 1-855-855-7822. Additional colic information is available by visiting the AAEP's website at www.aaep.org/horseowner.



Reprinted with permission from the American Association of Equine Practitioners.

**Republican Valley
Animal Center**

70924 US Hwy 183
P.O. Box 320
Alma, NE 68920

Toll Free: 1-855-855-7822
Option 1

Fax: 888-221-9430

Email:

rvac@repvalleyanimal.com

www.repvalleyanimal.com

Holbrook Animal Center

41783 Hwy 6 & 34

Holbrook, NE 68948

Toll Free: 1-855-855-7822

Option 2

Fax: 888-221-9430

Email:

hac@repvalleyanimal.com

Franklin Animal Center

1300 I Road

Franklin, NE 68939

Toll Free: 1-855-855-7822

Option 3

Fax: 888-221-9430

Email:

fac@repvalleyanimal.com

D.V.M.'s

Dr. Jeremy VanBoening

Dr. Erin VanBoening

Dr. Jeff Faimon

Dr. Cameron Hall

Dr. Jamie Hall

Staff

Karen DeLay

Mike Yelken

Kris Gall

Andrea Taylor

Deb Neilson

Andrew Bose

Dianna Chambers

Jamie North

Jeni Pankoke

Brenden Bose

Miranda Naslund

Lynnsey Riha

Erica Edwards



Modern care for animals large & small

Pet Dental Health

Regular dental examinations and dental care are critical components of our practice's health care programs. Studies show that over 80% of cats and dogs 3 years and older suffer from dental disease. Our preventative recommendations will help prolong the need for a dental procedure, however, by the age of 4 or 5, your pet may need his or her first dental cleaning and polishing. Many pets will hide their pain from oral infections and tooth problems until it is too late. Regular dental care will keep your pet's breath smelling better, make them feel better, and improve overall health and well being.

Untreated dental disease can lead to tooth loss, painful pus pockets and abscesses. Dental infections can lead to bacteria and toxin damage to organs such as the heart and kidneys. Oral tumors can be very aggressive and can be deadly if found too late.

Let us help to keep your pet's mouth clean and healthy!

