

EQUINE NEWSLETTER

SUMMER



The normal horse's small intestine is about 70 feet long while the large intestine is about 12 feet long.

By: Cowboyway.com

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Keeping Cool in Summer Heat

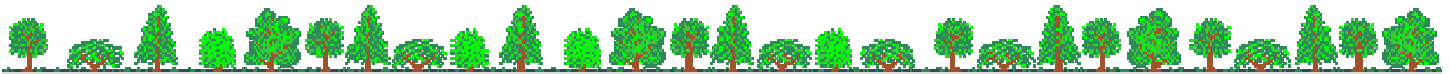
- Provide plenty of fresh, clean water
- Sponge or hose down the large blood vessels along the inside of the legs, belly and neck. Avoid spraying the face to keep water out of the ears.
- If you must work your horses hard, try to schedule your session for early morning or late evening when it is cooler
- After riding or driving in hot weather, cool your horse down slowly. Muscles are more apt to stiffen if the horse is allowed to stand, and moving dissipates heat better than stationary ones.
- Water horses slowly and offer cool not cold water when horses have been working or may be overheated.
- Consider using electrolytes if your horse is sweating hard, such as when the combined humidity and air temperature exceeds 104 degrees.
- Make sure there is a place for you horse to avoid the sun
- Clip horses with heavy coats. Be careful not to clip too close however, since exposed skin can sunburn.
- Apply zinc oxide cream to horses with pink noses to prevent and treat sunburn.
- Mid to late summer weather often means that grass growth slows down and pasture quality declines. Make sure your horse is getting enough fodder and consider supplementing with hay if necessary (legumes such as alfalfa can increase body through digestion).
- During very hot weather, consider keeping your horses stabled during the day, and let them out at night.
- If the barn becomes very hot and stuffy, consider setting up a fan. Make sure the horse cannot reach the cord or fan itself, it can't be tipped, and that it has a ground prong and used.
- If hot weather brings swarms of biting insects that keep your horse pacing and stomping, try using fly sprays, masks and sheets.
- Take care of yourself. If you get overheated and tired, you may not be able to take care of your horses effectively.
- Heat stroke can happen to horses whether they are working hard, standing in stuffy stables, or traveling in trailers.



By About.com & University of Kentucky

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Disease Profile-West Nile Virus

Symptoms: ataxia (incoordination, stumbling, limb weakness) can appear suddenly or gradual; sleepiness, dullness, listlessness and facial paralysis (droopy eyelids, lower lip). Some horses may have a milk fever, blindness, muscle trembling and seizures.

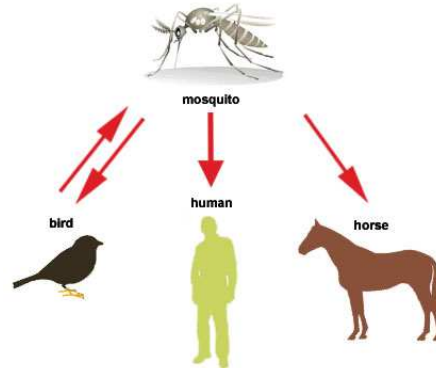
Spread: Mosquitoes, but virus multiplies in birds.

Treatment: No treatment, just supportive care

Prevention: Vaccination & insect control measures

Comments:

- Some 76 types of birds are capable of carrying the virus



- “Most horses bitten by the carrier mosquitoes do not develop the disease. Of those that do, approximately 1/3 develop severe disease and die or are so affected that euthanasia is required.”

- No evidence that infected animals can infect humans or other animals, only a wild bird/mosquito transmission cycle.

- Vaccination for the various encephalitis are not protected against infection with West Nile Virus

- Puddles and wet areas where mosquitoes might breed need to be eliminated. Water tanks should be drained once a week.

By: Michigan Depart. Of Ag.; Colorado State Univ.

Breed Profile □ Haflinger

Color: pale to dark liver chestnut with pale mane and tail

Origin: Austrian Tyrol

Year Identified: 1874

Brought to US: 1958

Size: 13.2 to 15 hands; 800 to 1300 pounds

Facts

- People loving, willing to please and

forgiving temperament

- Agile and surefooted
- Suitable for driving or riding
- “The modern Haflinger is now found all over the world, active in such varied disciplines as dressage, jumping, vaulting, packing, pleasure driving, western trail riding, endurance riding, draft work and therapeutic riding programs.”

- Easy keepers

- Long life, producing into the 20's and living into the 30's

By: Canadian Haflinger Assoc., Oklahoma State University, Haflinger Horses, American Haflinger Registry





Horse Heat Stroke

If a horse is exhibiting any of these symptoms call a vet immediately:

- Elevated respiration in an inactive horse (normal is 4 to 16 breaths per minute)
- Elevated pulse in an inactive horse. Pulse that doesn't drop after several minutes or climbs once exercise has stopped. Images show location on horse to take pulse.
- Profuse sweating or no sweating at all
- Elevated body temperature (above 103 Degrees). Place clean thermometer in rectum
- Irregular heart beat
- A depressed attitude
- Dehydration. Pick up a pinch of skin along your horse's neck; if the skin snaps back quickly, the horse is hydrated; if the pinched area collapses slowly, the horse is dehydrated.



Ranch Quiz

1. What is the normal body temperature range for horses?
2. What is normal respiration rate for horses?
3. What is a normal pulse for horses at rest?

Plant ID □ Red Maple

Other common names: Swamp Maple, Soft Maple, Scarlet Maple

Where it grows: East coast

Regions of the State it likes: Swamps, poor dry soils and anything in between

How it spreads: Seeds

Poisonous parts of plant: wilted and fallen leaves

Animals poisoned: horses

Symptoms: depression, dark brown urine, rapid pulse, increased respiration, coma

Other Characteristics:

- Fresh leaves are safe
- 1ounce ingested can be fatal
- Can be a problem in hay

• No cure or antidote, only supportive care
Control: Mechanical removal of trees and limbs in reach of horses.

By: Univ. Delaware & Cornell Univ.



Answer Key
 1. 99.5-101 degrees F
 2. 6-20 breaths/minute
 3. 30-40 beats/minute

Trail Ride First Aid Kit

Stay current on events and news through my blog:
<http://livestockagent.wordpress.com>



Livestocklove

The following are items that should be taken along especially on a long trail ride:

1. Water in portable containers
2. Collapsible water vessel
3. Salt packets
4. Small towel
5. Betadine ointment
6. Antibacterial salve
7. Gauze pads
8. Rolled cotton
9. Self-adhesive bandage (vet-wrap)
10. Duct tape
11. Easy boot (make sure it fits)
12. Cotton swabs
13. Eye rinse
14. Ophthalmic ointment
15. Pocket knife
16. Fence cutter
17. Name and phone number and vet's name and number.



By: Horse Chanel

Events Calendar

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www.ces.ncsu.edu/forsyth
www.ces.ncsu.edu/stokes



Until next time....

See ya!

- June 21-22 – N.C. Palomino Horse Show, Fletcher, N.C. 336-996-2354
- June 21-24 – Youth Driving Camp (Equine), Wytheville, Va. 276-228-5817
- July 10—Horse & Mule Games Day, Culpeper, Va. 703-754-3274
- July 15—Southern Equestrian Trails Conference, Atlanta, Ga.; 770-653-1139
- Sept 2—Equine Courses offered through Forsyth Tech Community College, 336-403-7297
- Sept 17-18 – Southern Draft Animal Days, Ferrum, Va. call 540-651-6355
- Sept 18—Fox Den Piedmont Horse Assoc. Show, Lexington, N.C. ; 336-746-4789
- Sept 19-20—Old Dominion Draft Horse & Mule Show, Culpeper, Va.; 703-346-4635
- Nov 27-28—Dixie Draft Horse & Mule Carriage Auction, Troutman, N.C.; 330-893-3541

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