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Spring 2008 Newsletter

Spring Vaccination Special

With spring just around the corner, and welcome indications of the approaching change of season beginning to occur, remember to schedule spring vaccinations to keep your equine friends protected. At Battenkill Veterinary Equine, we recommend a spring vaccine protocol that includes the following immunizations:

5 way

Includes the following:

Tetanus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, Western Equine Encephalitis, Influenza, & Rhinopneumonitis

**Potomac Horse Fever/
Rabies Combination**

West Nile

Intranasal Strangles

Greener Pastures

Take care when reintroducing your horse(s) to luscious spring pastures during the change of seasons. Rich, nutrient dense, spring grass may



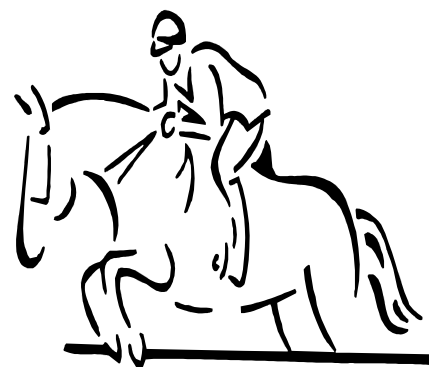
This specific grouping of vaccines is offered at a reduced cost for each horse receiving the complete package. For large groups of horses at one location, there will be a minimum call charge per owner. Call us soon to schedule your appointment as this special price will only be available until May 30th. A de-worming with Equimax® (ivermectin/praziquantel) is also recommended at this time.

Check if your horse's Coggins needs to be updated. Your spring vaccine appointment is a good time to get this taken care of.

Read more on page 3

about a new style of Coggins test that we are now offering.

We at Battenkill Veterinary Equine have immense concern for the continued health of your horse and encourage you to take this opportunity to invest in preventative maintenance and pose any questions or concerns you may have.



seem like the ultimate treat for your equine companion, but it contains high levels of carbohydrates which may have a negative effect on equine digestive systems and/or instigate episodes of harmful laminitis (founder). Gradually acclimate your horse(s) to the grass over a period of a couple of weeks

to aid in the prevention of these issues. If your horses live on pasture all year long they should have no problem making the adjustment on their own, however, you should still keep a close eye on their manure consistency and level of comfort to be safe.



View the *PreventiCare* page on our website www.battenkillequine.com/PreventiCare.html

PreventiCare is a unique equine wellness program created for all horses – from the trail to the show ring. It was designed with the idea that by forming a partnership with your veterinarian, you can improve your horse's health and performance.

Preventive medicine is the key to stopping health problems before they impair your horse's performance or become life-threatening. By encouraging regular veterinary care and fostering an improved relationship between the horse owner and the veterinarian, *PreventiCare* helps make exceptional health care possible.

The *PreventiCare* Colic Assistance Plan™; Peace of Mind That Comes With *PreventiCare*

When your horse is enrolled in the *PreventiCare* program, and you comply with the program guidelines, your horse is eligible for the Colic Assistance Plan or CAP. In the case of a serious colic requiring surgery, Pfizer Animal Health will reimburse the operating surgeon for surgical costs and three days of aftercare up to \$5,000. With *PreventiCare's* emphasis on preventive health care, the chances of your horse maintaining good health and condition are increased.

The Colic Assistance Plan gives you peace of mind knowing that if a colic should occur—and your horse is following the program—you can do what's best when your horse needs it most.



There are six minimum requirements when enrolled in the *PreventiCare* program:

1. Annual physical exam.
2. Annual dental exam, along with any advised treatment.
3. Appropriate immunizations as recommended by your veterinarian.
4. Annual nutritional consultation, when your veterinarian can help you review your feed program to decide whether it meets your horse's needs.
5. Strongid® C or Strongid® C 2X™ administered daily, year-round.
6. Twice-yearly treatments of Equell® (ivermectin) or Equimax® (ivermectin/praziquantel) purchased through, or administered by, your veterinarian.

There are three disqualifications to enrollment in *PreventiCare*:

1. Any horse that has had colic surgery.
2. Any horse that has experienced colic in the last 12 months or has a history of chronic colic.
3. Any horse under five months, or not fully weaned, or any horse over 20 years of age.

If your horse is not currently enrolled in the *PreventiCare* program, and you are interested in beginning a new enrollment, contact the clinic at (518) 692-2000 to schedule an appointment .

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Special Offer from Pfizer

Receive a **FREE** 6 lb. pail (\$120 value) of **Solitude IGR** feed thru fly control when you buy a years supply of **Strongid C 2x** (50lbs) and two tubes of **Equimax** paste de-wormer.

You can learn more about the Solitude IGR product at www.solitudeigr.com

Contact the clinic for more information.

(518) 692-2000

Welcome Back Dr. Conrad Whitfield

Battenkill Veterinary Equine would like to welcome back Dr. Conrad Whitfield to the practice. Dr. Whitfield received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine in 1997, followed by an Equine Medicine and Surgery internship at Las Colinas Veterinary Clinic in Irving, Texas. Additionally, he participated in an Equine Surgery residency at Oklahoma State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Whitfield has been a member of our team in the past and we are pleased that he has returned to the area to rejoin the practice.



Dr. Conrad Whitfield

Digital Coggins Tests and Health Certificates

After the pictures and markings for your horse are on file with us, the veterinarian will only need to draw blood for future Coggins tests.

Battenkill Veterinary Equine is excited to be offering Coggins forms and health certificates that are processed on the world wide web and include digital images of your horse. The process of drawing blood and submitting the sample to the lab remains the same. All of the text on the form, with the exception of the Doctor's signature, is typed. This provides much

more legible finished forms that eliminate the problems sometimes associated with deciphering a handwritten Coggins or Health Certificate. And since Coggins forms frequently need to be sent via facsimile, another benefit to the typed forms is that they always transmit clearly and readably.

We plan to make a complete switch over to this

digital Coggins format over the course of the year.

After the pictures and markings for your horse are on file with us, the veterinarian will only need to draw blood for future Coggins tests.

There is information for horse owners about the new forms on the Global Vet Link web site at www.globalvetlink.com/about/animal-owners/.

Foaling-When to be Concerned

A normal presentation of a foal is feet first, one slightly in front of the other, soles down, and the nose tucked between them, around the area of the knees. Contact us immediately if

- You see only one foot, or more than two feet
- Feet are upside down, or soles up.
- You do not see a nose,

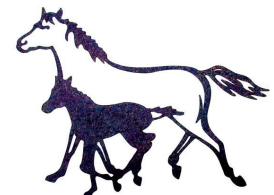
or a nose and no feet.

- You see red tissue (placenta) prior to foaling.

A complete article on the guidelines for foaling can be found in our spring '07 newsletter which is linked to the "Client Education" page of our website, www.battenkillequine.com. There are various other helpful mare and foal care

links on this page as well.

If you have any concerns or questions that you would like to speak directly to a Veterinarian about, please do not hesitate to call the clinic, (518) 692-2000.



Battenkill Veterinary Equine

PO Box 2

516 State Rte. 29; corner of Rte. 29 and 40 South

Middle Falls, NY 12848

Ph : 518-692-2000 Fax: 518-692-7554

Email: info@battentillequine.com

Our Valued Clients:



If you have ever found your horse with a problem and debated whether it was one that required immediate Veterinary attention, you are probably not alone. When in doubt, **CALL!** Our doctors will be happy to consult with you over the phone to determine the urgency of the situation.

Our after hours emergency service numbers:

**1 (518) 692-7924 or
1 (315) 366-5056**



Call the Vet Immediately When Your Horse...

- Has an injury with significant bleeding that is not stopping.
- Exhibits any likelihood of a fracture involved in an injury.
- Has a wound that appears to require repair by suturing.
- Experiences sudden onset (acute) lameness, often in addition to heat and swelling.
- Is having trouble breathing; there is noise accompanying his breathing and/or breathing is labored.
- Is choking. His neck may be stretched out and saliva/food particles may be coming from his nostrils.
- Is having seizures.
- Has excessively watery manure or diarrhea. This is often a sign of a larger problem and can cause dehydration if left untreated.
- Has an eye injury or issue. These often require immediate attention to prevent permanent damage.
- Is exhibiting signs of colic: looking at belly, pawing, rolling, or any other abnormal behavior that appears to indicate discomfort.
- Has any abnormal vital signs. Normal ranges are:
Temp: 99-101 degrees
Pulse: 30-44 beats/minute
Respiration: 12-20 breaths/minute