



## \*\*\*EVENTS\*\*\*

### 1. Equine Extravaganza

- Feb 25<sup>th</sup> – Brookside Stable

### 2. Nutrition Seminar- Poulin Feed/ Bill's Feed

- March 19<sup>th</sup>

### 3. Spring Wellness Special

- April and May
- \$80-includes Rabies, 4way, West Nile, Potomac Horse Fever vaccine and dewormer
- Does not include call charge, coggins, or miscellaneous work

- Each monthly newsletter will contain a topic clients are asking about. This month is equine borreliosis, also known as equine lyme disease.

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## News

I hope this winter weather is treating you well, remember spring is just around the corner!

Due to heavy interest and the early show season, the **spring wellness special** will include April and May. Please contact me to schedule an appointment soon, as April and May schedules are filling quickly.

My website is up and running and highlights events and lists

some prices.

**If you have not contacted me with interest to continue receiving newsletters, this will be the last that you receive.** You can contact me via website, email, facebook or phone.

There are two upcoming events. The first event is the **Equine Extravaganza** held at Brookside Stables in Lee Center on February 25<sup>th</sup>. A flyer is included with details.

The event should be a lot of fun and have a large turnout.

The second event is a **nutritional seminar by Poulin Feeds**, which is sold by Bill's Feed in Great Bend. Bill's Feed is now offering delivery to most places. Please contact him for further information. 493-9505. The seminar will be on March 19<sup>th</sup> and FREE to the public! Details will be in the March newsletter.

## Equine Lyme Disease

Equine Lyme disease is caused by the spirochete *Borrelia burgdorferi* which is spread by *Ixodes* sp. ticks. Any horse that is housed outdoors is potentially exposed to Lyme disease. Ticks must latch on to horses and feed in order to infect. It is thought that this most likely takes 12-24 hours.

Signs of infection can be very difficult to detect. Most common signs are a rapid onset of a behavior change and increased skin sensitivity. Other common signs are weight loss, shifting lameness or lameness with unexplained origin, stiffness, joint and limb swelling and lethargy. Unique clinical signs that have been observed are neuroborreliosis (disorder of the central nervous system), pseudolymphoma (benign disorder of lymphoid system) and uveitis (inflammation of the uvea in the eye).

There is a blood test to

confirm lyme disease. In the past it has been very difficult to interpret, but recently a new test has been developed that can differentiate acute and chronic disease, as well as vaccinated animals.

The most common treatment for lyme disease is intravenous antibiotics for one week followed by at least one month of oral antibiotics. A retest three months after the start of treatment is recommended.

Currently there is no approved horse vaccine on the market. However, many veterinarians are having success using a type of lyme vaccine that is made for dogs. There is no guarantee that this vaccine will eliminate lyme disease in horses, but veterinarians are finding that it greatly decreases the risk. There may be a greater risk of vaccine-related side effects, which may include soreness, lethargy, colic, and

anaphylaxis. There have not been any reported deaths due to the canine lyme vaccine being used in horses.

Prevention is key in lyme disease! Keep pastures mowed. Ticks are commonly found in tall grass. Use insecticides containing permethrin or cypermethrin, and use them frequently. Some owners have tried Frontline spray and bands and found these to help in prevention. Thoroughly check horses for ticks daily. Remove any ticks that are found. Remember to always wear gloves and grasp the tick close to the horse's skin, as they are difficult to remove and may break off leaving parts in the skin.

