



Straight from the horses mouth

Issue 8

Summer 2009

THE THIRSTY DAYS OF SUMMER

Summer is here! With the warmer weather comes riding more, training, jumping and having fun. All this extra activity can make for a very thirsty horse!

As we need to remember to keep drinking ourselves to stop from getting dehydrated and feeling dizzy and weak, we must make sure our horses stay hydrated as well.

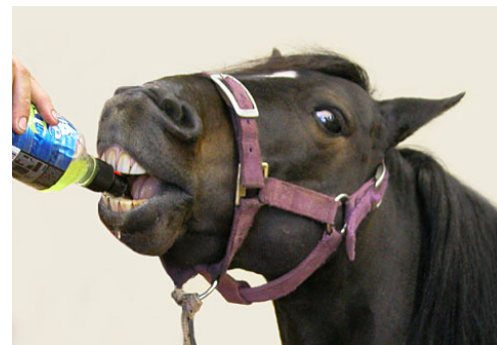
Do you know what causes dehydration in horses and how to tell if they may be parched?

Dehydration occurs when more water and salts are lost from the body than are taken in. The horse doesn't have enough fluid in his body to maintain normal physiological conditions. It is usually associated with fast, energetic work but there are many other situations in which dehydration can occur.

Possible Causes of Dehydration are lack of available water or failure to drink, prolonged or marked sweating travel, diarrhoea - especially in foals, excessive urination when not accompanied by a compensatory thirst, hemorrhage or heat exhaustion.

Signs of Dehydration include the skin losing its pliability, a lack of inclination to graze or eat, listlessness, loss of normal color from the membranes of gums and eyes and reduced membrane refill time.

Pull out a pinch of skin on your horse's neck or shoulder. If it springs right back into place, he's reasonably hydrated. If he is moderately dehydrated, the skin will stay elevated a few seconds after you pull it out. The more dehydrated he is, the longer the skin will stay elevated.



Electrolyte replacement helps to counteract lethargy and dehydration. Most proprietary mixes focus on sodium and chloride, but magnesium is an important element lost in sweat. Replacing other electrolytes but not magnesium may result in horses being hyperactive or 'fizzy'.

Sedalyte is an advanced electrolyte replacer specifically designed to help prevent performance loss.

Because Sedalyte's balanced formulation closely mimics the actual composition of a horse's sweat it is so effective at helping to prevent poor performance due to sweat

loss. Sedalyte delivers at least twice the amount of electrolytes as other products per recommended dose.

Sedalyte is available only at your vet only product, and on a maintenance rate costs only 0.68c per day.

A horse can sweat 6 litres in a training session

This contains 22.2g sodium, 37.2g chloride, 1.2g magnesium and 12g potassium

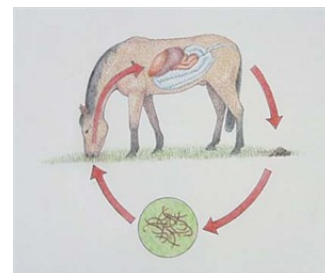
SPECIAL OFFER!

Iverquantal Horse Worm Paste!

Buy 4 get the 5th one free! *



* Offer available until end of December 09



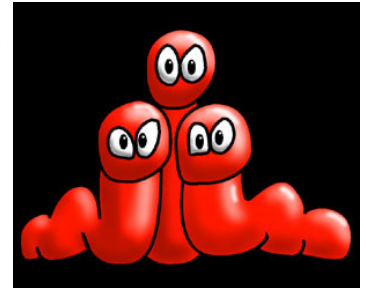
WORMS - HOW EFFECTIVE IS YOUR WORMER?

We all know the importance of regular worming and keeping paddocks clean. An effective parasite control programme is essential for good horse health. Signs of a worm burden include ill-thrift and colic. Those most susceptible to parasites are the young (under 3 years old) and the geriatric (15 years and up).

It is easy to find out if your horse is affected by parasites. A simple lab test can be done on a fresh faecal sample to see if there are any parasite eggs present.

This inexpensive test can be used to see if your horse requires drenching and to see how effective your drench is. By testing 10 days after drenching you can see if the last drench actually worked. This is important since we are now encountering parasite resistance to certain drenches in all types of grazing animals – including horses.

All you need to do is bring us a small, fresh sample of your horses dung. The count costs \$15 per sample. The cost drops for more than one sample done at a time.



HARD SUMMER GROUND & YOUR HORSE

Hard ground associated injuries

- Concussion and jarring
- Bruised feet
- Splints
- Tendon Injuries
- Laminitis - not all cases are due to fat ponies being overfed; some are seen in the summer months as a result of concussion, which traumatises the sensitive laminae
- Sore shins - seen in other animals working on hard ground - a common problem in racehorses. The signs are swelling to the front of the cannon bone, which may lead to fractures if the horse is not rested

Signs that a horse is jarred up – include shortening of the stride, increased tension as muscles change their function, refusing to jump or flattening and rushing at jumps.



Cold Treatments - for recent injuries and lameness helps inflammation. Cold water hosing works well. These treatments should be used for up to 40 minutes at a time, twice a day

Poulticing - works well to remove infection and inflammation. Call into the clinic to discuss the best poultice for your needs.

- Never wrap or bandage a horse unless you know how to do it properly.
- It is important to note that many therapies can do more damage to the tissue if used improperly or for too long.

Call us for a full lameness examination and treatment.

STAGGERS TIME

Warm, dry weather often heralds the first grass staggers of the season. The toxins seem to be at their most potent when pasture is being grazed down or the seed heads are being eaten. Rye, paspalum or fescue grasses can cause staggers.

Often symptoms will get worse with stress or excitement. In severe cases the horse may fall over when frightened. There is no "cure" for grass staggers, but you will need to remove your horse from pasture—or at least certain grass's for at least two weeks. Animals with the disorder will tend to lose condition rapidly. They will not be grazing nearly as much as usual, and may not be drinking as they should.

Symptoms include:
Over-reaction to fright
A wobbly gait - can look a bit 'drunk'
A wide-based stance
Nodding or swaying when still

Town & Country Vet Equi Staggers contains yeast which helps the good bacteria in the intestines, and also a toxin binder to reduce the amount of toxin that your horse gets. Our Equi Staggers works out to 0.48c per day, a small price for peace of mind.