



## NEW Lameness Treatment Options Now Available from Visiting Vet

Visiting Vet has greatly expanded our therapeutic options for lameness treatment over the last year. IRAP, PRP, Tildren, and Mesotherapy are all new treatments offered in addition to routine anti-inflammatory medication administration and intra-articular joint injection to help treat and heal the problem areas of your horse.

Interleukin-1 Receptor Antagonist Protein Therapy (IRAP) is used for the treatment of arthritis. This protein, which is naturally present in the body, is collected from the blood of the patient, concentrated, and then injected into the problem joint. Platelet Rich Plasma Therapy (PRP) has been shown to be beneficial in the stimulation of healthy soft tissue and bone in both human and equine medicine. In this therapy, the platelet portion of the blood is collected and concentrated then re-injected into the affected problem area, usually soft tissue. Platelets, rich in growth factors and anti-inflammatory proteins, aid in the healing process.

Tildren is a newer drug currently being successfully used in Europe for osteoarthritis, most commonly navicular disease. This drug is a bisphosphonate drug that aids in diseases that cause bone absorption. One of the biggest benefits of Tildren is that it is administered systemically instead of intra-articularly and can therefore address multiple problem sites within the body.

We have also had significant positive results using a new technique, Mesotherapy, to treat neck and back pain in horses. This technique was developed in France by Dr. M. Pistor. Mesotherapy involves stimulation of the mesoderm (middle layer of the skin) with various biological substances using very small needles which will, in turn, relieve a wide variety of symptoms and ailments. Generally, a minimum of one to two treatments are performed according to the horse's response. Mesotherapy is helpful in the treatment of many conditions as it helps in reversing the physiology of that condition and aids

### Special points of interest:

- *Attention Attention!!! For those of you who do not already know, Dr. Gaffney has left her previous position at the small animal emergency clinic and is now devoting her time entirely to Visiting Vet. This means that she is available for appointments most days of the week for your small animal or equine needs.*
- *Visiting Vet has recently purchased a new digital ultrasound! Our new Micromaxx ultrasound provides higher quality imaging and picture resolution for optimum imaging of structures allowing for the most accurate diagnosis.*
- *Visiting Vet has also recently acquired a new TonoVet tonometer that is used to obtain intraocular pressures in all species. This tool can be useful in identifying early stages of glaucoma in your dog, cat, or horse. We encourage you to inquire about early glaucoma screening in your dog of greater than 8 years of age as part of a routine geriatric exam.*



in breaking the pain spasm cycle.

Please feel free to question either Dr. Peckham or Dr. Gaffney about these therapeutic options. We will be happy to help you decide if one of these treatment options would be beneficial for your horse.



## **FALL WELLNESS EXAM**

Congratulations to everyone that won an end of season Championship ribbon or trophy! It was wonderful to see everyone dressed up at the NODA banquet.

Now that show season is over for those of us not lucky enough to be heading to Florida, it is the time for a Fall Wellness Exam. This is the best time to reflect on the past season and make plans for the winter training session.

A physical exam should be scheduled to address any health concerns that have developed over the past year. Auscultation of the heart, lungs, and GI tract should be performed. If any pesky lumps have developed, now is the time for them to be checked and removed.

Vaccinations are essential for the complete health of the horse. Consult your veterinarian to determine the vaccines required by each horse on an individual basis.

A fecal egg count should be performed at least 60 days after the last de-wormer has been administered. The fecal egg count will determine the need to de-worm, if the current de-wormer is effective, and help the veterinarian develop a de-worming strategy designed specifically for your horse and property.

An oral exam should be performed. A good oral exam should be done under sedation with a bright light and an oral speculum. The sharp points on the molars can be floated and equilibrated if needed and hooks can be reduced.

A CBC profile (complete blood count) and fibrinogen blood work can be drawn to fully evaluate your horse's health. The CBC looks for anemia, infection, inflammation and low platelets. A profile will evaluate liver enzymes, kidney function, and overall electrolyte and protein values. Fibrinogen levels help to assess the overall inflammation state present within the horse.

Now is the time to look into any subtle lameness or gait abnormality. Early intervention may correct or cure a problem. Radiographs, ultrasound and MRI are advanced diagnostics that can be utilized to pinpoint lameness.

Joint injections, joint supplements and injections of joint protective substances such as Adequan or Legend may improve your horse's comfort and allow him to perform at a higher level.

Using all the information from the Fall wellness Exam we can start evaluating a training program to prepare for next season. Hopefully we will all be recipient of a Championship ribbon next year!



## **Small Animal News**

### **Dental Specials**

Visiting Vet will offer dental specials for equine and small animals.

Small animal dental specials will be offered in January and February.

Equine dental specials will be offered in November and December and in June and July.

These specials will reduce the regular dental fee for each species by \$20.00. This does not include sedation or anesthesia or non-routine services such as extractions or medication.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Regular Fee</b>	<b>Special Fee</b>
Feline	\$75	\$55
Canine	\$95	\$75
Equine	\$75	\$55

### **Client Referral**

We believe that our clients are our best advertising and want to reward you! We have implemented a Client Referral Reward Program in which \$25 is credited to your account for a new client referral appointment.

### **Fecal Floatation VS Fecal Egg Counts**

We will no longer be offering fecal floatation for equine clients as the float does not provide a quantitative assessment of the current parasite load or resistance to anthelmintics. Visiting Vet recommends a fecal egg count at least 60 days post de-worming and usually in winter or early spring to develop an individualized de-worming program customized for each horse depending on the number of eggs within the feces.

### **Fleas**

Fleas are still a problem even though we have already had a hard frost! The flea eggs are still hatching in our warm homes! Visiting Vet is now recommending two products for control of fleas on your pet. Comfortis is a pill given once a month. Comfortis only kills fleas and is available only for dogs. It must be given with a meal.

The topical product is Vectra 3D. Vectra can be utilized on dogs and cats. The product is labeled for dogs must not be used on cats as it can be very toxic to cats. There is a special Vectra 3D for cats only. Vectra will control both fleas, ticks and mosquitoes for 30 days.

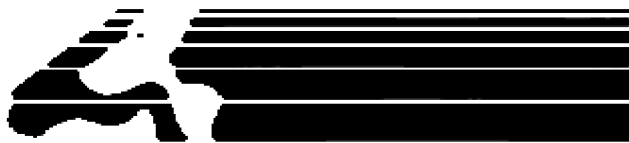


## **What's the Fuss about Equine Piroplasmosis?**

As many of you may be aware, there has been a recent concern regarding Equine Piroplasmosis in many states. "What is Equine Piroplasmosis?", you ask. This is a disease of all *Equidae* (horses, donkeys, mules, and zebras) that is caused by two *Babesia* parasites: *Babesia equi* and *Babesia caballi*. It is transmitted to horses mainly by ticks but may be spread mechanically by contaminated needles as well.

Once infected with the organism, a horse can take from 7 to 22 days to show signs of disease which include fever, anemia, jaundiced (yellow) mucus membranes, swollen abdomens, and labored breathing in the early stages. This organism can also cause horses to have roughened hair coats, constipation, and colic. Some horses, however, may not exhibit any signs of disease. Horses that survive the acute stages of EP continue to carry the parasites in their blood for long periods of time. These horses serve as potential sources of infection for other horses. EP is often difficult to diagnosis due to the nonspecific clinical signs though a laboratory test is available if it is suspected. State and Federal veterinarians must be notified if this disease is suspected prior to any blood samples being obtained. Treatment for EP currently includes supportive care of the patient and centers around preventing further transmission of the disease. There is currently not a vaccination available for the treatment of EP.

Equine Piroplasmosis is not considered endemic in the United States though isolated outbreaks of the disease have occurred infrequently. This disease is found in Africa, the Caribbean, Central and South America, the Middle East, and Eastern and Southern Europe. The United States won the bid to hold the World Equestrian Games in Lexington, Kentucky. This was the first time that the games have been held outside of Europe. Specific safeguarding measures were put into place to allow horses with EP and those from endemic countries to enter the U.S. while maintaining the health of U.S. horses.



- A reminder that a Health Certificate and current Coggins is required if your horse is traveling out-of-state. Several show grounds may also require a Health Certificate, which is good for 30 days from the date of issue. We recommend you contact our office at least 10 days prior to traveling so that we can verify your Coggins expiration date, check state guidelines (some states require us to obtain a Permit Number), etc. You will be asked to provide destination information (name of place, complete street, city, state and zip) as this is required on the Health Certificate.
- **Emergency paging system:** A veterinarian is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week in case of an emergency. The Visiting Vet has now contracted an answering service that will answer all emergency calls after hours. If you do not have an emergency, you may still leave a message for the office staff that will be retrieved on the next business day.



## **Note from Jeni:**

We have been very busy at Visiting Vet this year!

I have taken extensive instruction and courses over the past two years in Equine Dentistry. The clinic has purchased state-of-the-art equipment called a "Flexi-Float" which uses water to cool the tooth to prevent thermal injury and provides suction to allow better visualization of the mouth. Using this modern approach to equine dentistry allows the practitioner to provide excellent dental care with minimal stress to the horse. I am able to show the owner what is going on within their horse's mouth. The use of our digital x-ray machine on the farm can provide visualization of the tooth roots should this be required. As with humans, regular dental care is essential to overall good health for your pet. Please call our clinic to schedule a dental appointment. Dental specials are also listed on page 3.

Due to the economic climate we have remained consistent with our fees the past two years. We understand the economy is impacting everyone. If you have an outstanding balance, please make a payment each month just to acknowledge that you are aware of the debt. If payment is made each month, we will waive service charges once original balance is paid in full.

We are making a serious effort to go green and have started sending reminders via email and will be sending out the newsletter in the same format. Please make sure we have your email address to stay updated. Take time to visit our website at [www.visitingvet.net](http://www.visitingvet.net). You can send us your email address thru the contact section on our website.

We will be giving a series of seminars in 3 locations this winter. List of dates and subjects later in the newsletter and on our website.

We wish all of you a happy holiday season and are looking forward to the new year!

## **Kittens are looking for a home!**

Visiting Vet has 9 adorable kittens who are looking for a loving forever home.

The kittens range in ages from 7 to 14 weeks and they come in a variety of colors, white, gray, black, tabby and orange! We have 3 females and 6 males.

**JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS!**



**The Visiting Vet**  
**330-665-5915**  
**[www.visitingvet.net](http://www.visitingvet.net)**

### **Equine Dentistry Seminar Sponsored by The Visiting Vet**

Have you every wondered why a horse needs to have their teeth equilibrated (floated and examined) each year?

What is the veterinarian looking for during the dental examination?

Why do we need a light, speculum and sedation for the dental exam?

My new horse has a wave, ramp, step, smile, open pulp chamber, decay – what do these look like? Prognosis? Treatment?

Want to know more? Come join us at one of the Equine Dentistry Seminars offered by The Visiting Vet on the following dates in January 2011:

<b>Jan 12</b>	<b>Rocky River Stables</b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30</b>
<b>Jan 19</b>	<b>Copley Feed</b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30</b>
<b>Feb 2</b>	<b>The Paddock</b>	<b>6:30 - 7:30</b>

### **Lameness Seminar Sponsored By Visiting Vet**

Find out what new treatments and therapies are available.

This seminar will cover stem cell, IRAP, PRP, Shock Wave Therapy, Tildren, Legend, Adequan and Mesotherapy.

Learn the differences between the NSAIDS – Banamine, Bute, Surpass and Equioxx.

Learn the benefits and uses of nutraceuticals– glucosamine and chondroitin.

Come join us for an evening of interesting lameness cases offered by The Visiting Vet on the following dates in February 2011:

<b>Feb 8</b>	<b>Copley Feed</b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30</b>
<b>Feb 16</b>	<b>Rocky River Stables</b>	<b>6:30 – 7:30</b>
<b>Feb 23</b>	<b>The Paddock</b>	<b>6:30 - 7:30</b>