



VET NOTES

SEPTEMBER 2005

Previous VET NOTES

- August 2005 - Extracorporeal shockwave therapy (ESWT)
- July 2005 - Vaccination recommendations
- June 2005 - The advantages of high fat/low carbohydrate diets for horses
- May 2005 - The Hoof: Form and function
- March 2005 - Liquid gold
- February 2005 - Breeding the problem mare
- January 2005 - Condylar fractures
- December 2004 - Early diagnosis and treatment of high-risk pregnancy in the mare
- November 2004 - Know your horse
- October 2004 - White Line Disease
- September 2004 - Announcements
- August 2004 - Reminders for pregnant mare management
- July 2004 - The heat is on
- June 2004 - Equine first aid
- May 2004 - Bacterial pneumonia in foals
- April 2004 - Digital radiographs
- March 2004 - Colic in the post-foaling broodmare

New Medications

This month's Vet Notes will acquaint you with some newer medications that your veterinarian may use or recommend to treat your horse.

Buscopan (N-butylscopolammonium bromide) is an anti-spasmodic, anticholinergic drug that is used to treat pain caused by colic. This drug has only recently been approved for use in the United States, but has been used in other countries to treat colic for many years. Buscopan acts to relieve colic pain by relaxing smooth muscles of the GI tract. It is especially useful for spasmodic or gas colic, and will not mask symptoms of a surgical colic. It is a relatively short-acting drug, with effects lasting approximately 30 minutes. One side effect is a temporary increase in heart rate, so pulse cannot be used as a measurement of pain immediately after giving Buscopan. GI sounds will also be decreased due to the relaxation of the GI tract.

Buscopan can be, and is frequently used in combination with Banamine, xylazine, and Torbugesic to treat horses for colic. Because it relaxes the GI tract, Buscopan can also be used to facilitate rectal examination in horses that strain. While most veterinarians have not significantly changed how they approach treating a horse with colic, Buscopan provides another option to manage pain caused by non-surgical colics.

Sedivet (Romifidine hydrochloride) is a sedative/analgesic in the same family as xylazine and detomidine (dormosedan). It is used as a sedative or a pre-anesthetic for general anesthesia. It is longer-acting than xylazine, but has a slightly shorter duration of action than dormosedan. Horses tend to show less ataxia and do not drop their head when sedated with Sedivet, which can make it useful for procedures such as taking x-rays. As with xylazine and detomidine, horses sedated with Sedivet can still re-

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respond (kick or jump!) to painful stimuli, so appropriate restraint and common sense should be used. When used as a preanesthetic for general anesthesia, horses tend to have a smoother and easier recovery. While no sedative is perfect for every procedure or patient, having more choices allows your veterinarian to select the most appropriate drug for the situation.

Surpass (diclofenac sodium) is a topical NSAID (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drug), in the same class of drugs as bute and Banamine. It can be used to treat osteoarthritis at the specific joint affected. Long-term use of anti-inflammatories such as bute can cause problems such as GI ulcers and toxicity of the kidneys. Using a topical anti-inflammatory minimizes the risk of such complications. The directions of use are to apply a 5" ribbon of cream twice daily to the affected joint, and can be used for up to 10 consecutive days. Surpass is an additional treatment option for osteoarthritis along with traditional systemic anti-inflammatories and joint injections.

If you have any questions regarding the use of these medications, please contact your veterinarian.

Announcements

SERVICE AT THE KEENELAND SALE, KENTUCKY

Peterson & Smith will be providing service in Kentucky during the Keeneland Sale - September 12-24, 2005. Our veterinarians will be available for viewing of repository x-rays, scoping and any pre- or post-sale x-rays you may need. You will be able to reach them as follows:

Faith E. Hughes, DVM - (352) 843-0323
Allen B. Riggs, DVM - (352) 843-4930

2005 PETERSON & SMITH HORSEMAN'S SEMINAR

The second Peterson & Smith horseman's seminar will be held on November 19 & 20, 2005. Watch out for more information in the coming months.

- January 2004 - Lameness and poor performance
- December 2003 - Internal parasites - the hidden battle
- November 2003 - Equine tapeworms - The forgotten parasite
- October 2003 - Blister beetle poisoning
- September 2003 - The horse owners' role in wound care
- August 2003 - West Nile update: Broodmare vaccinations
- July 2003 - Stifle radiographs
- June 2003 - A newly emerging cause of diarrhea in weanling foals
- May 2003 - Vaccination recommendation
- February 2004 - Equine Dentistry

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