

PENINSULA EQUINE MEDICAL CENTER

100 Ansel Lane • Menlo Park, CA. 94028

Summer Update

□ New Doctors □

The entire Peninsula Equine Medical Center (PEMC) staff has been busy this summer spreading their efforts across the spectrum of needs of our talented patients! Whether at horseshows, immersed in performance evaluations, doing surgeries, or solving the many challenging and unique clinical problems of our patients, we have survived and emerged enthusiastically with many new areas of interest ahead to work upon and develop this winter!

As many of you know, Peninsula Equine offers a year-long Internship for especially talented and qualified post graduate veterinarians. Our internship provides specialized training in surgery, diagnostic imaging, and performance/sports horse medicine. We are fortunate this year to have Dr. Sinead Devine remain on staff for a second term as our Senior Intern Clinician. Dr. Devine came to us from her native home in Ireland. She served here as an extern several years ago, practiced in her home country for 4 years after completing her veterinary training in Ireland, and was a valuable asset to our clinical staff last year.

We also want to introduce Dr. Monica Dean, our newest intern-clinician staff. Dr. Dean grew up in our area and has been both a client and enthusiastic volunteer and later vet student extern throughout her veterinary training at UC Davis. We are thrilled to have followed Monica through her schooling and wholeheartedly welcome her to her position here on staff. Her years of horse experience and background in this area will enhance her rapid assimilation into the 'daily routine'. Monica arrived in August following a unique and exciting experience with RAVS (Rural Area Veterinary Services), wherein she and other veterinarians traveled to Palau to provide volunteer veterinary care to underdeveloped villages for patients who rarely are fortunate enough to receive medical care and services. Be sure when you meet her to visit with her and ask questions if you're interested.

□ New Diagnostic & Treatment Modalities □

One of our cornerstone goals at PEMC is to remain on the forefront of the rapidly evolving diagnostic and therapeutic developments occurring in the medical field. Through both enhanced diagnostic modalities and emergency therapeutic regimens and medications, many conditions which were previously unsolvable are now managed successfully. These advances are allowing us to open new doors into maintaining health and athletic performance in the equine athlete.

The following are a few of these exciting areas we are actively providing and developing at the Peninsula Equine Medical Center.

I R A P

(Interleukin Receptor site Antagonist Protein)

One of our key management concerns in joint disease and athletic injuries is the control and management of inflammation. Interleukin is one of the major chemical mediators released in arthritic joints and when it binds to receptor sites on the joint surfaces it triggers a cascade of body responses causing heat, pain, and swelling. IRAP, developed in Europe 8 years ago, is a therapeutic treatment wherein blood drawn from the affected horse and processed in a specific manner results in a serum product which can be used to treat the joint to prevent this inflammatory cascade. The 'IRAP enriched' serum binds these interleukin receptor sites and prevents the harmful interleukin-receptor site bond. This therapy is especially effective in joints which are not responding to conventional IA therapy measures.

A C E L L

Acell is a cellular matrix utilized in many of the tendon or ligament injuries encountered in our athletic horse patients. Acell when injected into the damaged fiber area acts as a lattice or grid upon which the new collagen fibers align and enmesh. The Acell, upon speeding tendon-ligament healing rate and fiber quality, has been very impressive and the product is now being utilized in appropriate injuries for both chronic re-injuries and those injuries which are more acute.

SHOCKWAVE THERAPY

(ESWT – Extra corporal shockwave therapy)

(We are referring to “mechanical” shock wave treatment as in lithotripsy and NOT electrical shock treatment!)

Two key types of ESWT have emerged over the past 4 years to treat soft tissue injuries in sports horses. Focused ESWT utilizes equipment which concentrates a point shockwave upon a specific depth and place, while Radial ESWT produced a wavelike, radiating shockwave over a diffuse area with intensity decreasing as depth increases.

ESWT produces increased blood supply and promotes an influx of cells to repair the damaged tissue and lay down new replacement tissue. Depending upon the specific problem, either focused, radial, or occasionally both are indicated to promote repair. Tendons and ligaments are frequently treated with several focused ESWT treatments, while ringbone and similar conditions respond well to radial ESWT. There are very few facilities which offer ESWT therapy, and our PEMC clients are fortunate to have both focused and radial ESWT available to treat their horses.

DIAGNOSTIC NUCLEAR MEDICINE

(Bone Scans)

PEMC completely updated our Nuc Med equipment to the most current digital system in June 2005 and we are doing an average of 2-3 scans per week! Bone scans are a unique modality to localize areas of inflammation (causing pain/lameness) in our patients who are unable to “tell us where it hurts”! This procedure helps us to target difficult-to-identify areas of lameness and to itemize multiple sources of lameness in more complicated cases, and then direct our diagnostic/treatment development. There are only 5 medical centers in California providing Nuc Med imaging in horses and PEMC is please to be one of these.

WEST NILE UPDATE

The staff at PEMC receives weekly updates from both California and bay area West Nile regulatory agencies. We will keep you abreast of new developments on our website (www.peneq.com). Suffice it to say, the season is already underway in California (approximately 1 month earlier than in 2004), and our recommendations for prevention as well as links to other info agencies are on our website. Do vaccinate and also follow agency recommendations for mosquito habitat control and bite prevention. We had no deaths in horses in our county in 2004 and we shall strive to repeat this in 2005 but the wet winter and increasing infected bird population will challenge us this year. We have enclosed a map given to us by the Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District that provides the district contact numbers should you have any questions.