

Equine Health Line

May 2009

Online Pharmacy

Our online pharmacy is up and running! Please visit our website at

www.peneq.com.

You will find prescription and non-prescription products, such as Gastrogard, Adequan, Legend, Vetwrap, and dewormers, at prices competitive with online pharmacies. Free shipping on orders over \$39! You will need to request a login & password the first time you visit us!

Website

Our website is getting a makeover! We will have a section dedicated to you! A client area where you can post events, or tell us about your horse!

Please email us at web@peneq.com

with your event, story, and pictures! Or submit directly via our website.



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Scoping Clinic: 81% have Stomach Ulcers

Earlier this month, we held a scoping clinic for a local show barn. We performed gastroscopy on 21 horses, most of which had just returned from a horse show. None of the horses showed any clinical signs of ulcers at the time of scoping. Of these 21 horses, 17 had ulcers! This is not really a revelation since previously published studies have shown that 92% of racehorses, 60-80% of sport horses and 60% of broodmares have stomach ulcers. The "nice" surprise was that although this barn had the statistically expected percentage of horses with ulcers, the severity was less than normally visually diagnosed largely due to an exceptional feeding program and selective use of NSAIDs. Refer to this month's "tip of the month" for ways to reduce the risk of ulcers in your horse. It will be interesting to follow up on these horses response to subsequent Gastrogard® treatment, especially to see if they exhibit any change in performance or behavior now that their gastric ulcers are being treated! Please call us if you would like to schedule a scoping clinic for your barn. Ask about our group rate.

If your horse/horses are anything like the ones we scoped, you might find yourself surprised that the horse you think has ulcers doesn't and the nicest, quietest one has the most severe GUS (Gastric Ulcer Syndrome), as observed in our recent survey.



From the Office

Sign up for our monthly auto-payment service and we'll debit your credit card after each monthly billing in which you have an outstanding balance. Once your payment is processed we attach your receipt along with your paid statement and mail this information to you. This form can be found on our website. Please download and fax or mail back to:

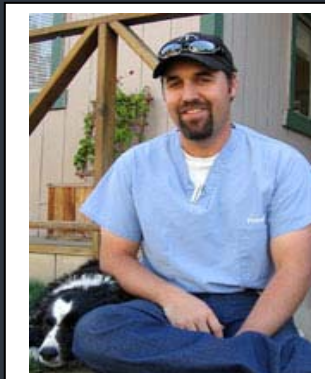
Peninsula Equine Medical Center

Phone: (650) 854-3162 Fax: (650) 854-3658
PO Box 7297 Menlo Park, CA 94026

Please contact either Marion Prieto or Amanda Maffei with any questions you may have about the charges you are billed for. They will be happy to help you. Thank you for your continued support of Peninsula Equine. We look forward to continuing our relationship with each of you and your horses!

Goodbye BBQ at PEMC clinic

May 16th, at 4pm



Dr. Matt Randall will be leaving at the end of May, after 5 years at PEMC. Yes, for real this time – we tried to keep him longer but, Texas finally won! We would like to invite you all to come for an informal BBQ at the clinic to say bye to Matt, and to meet Dr. Jim Nutt, who will be starting with us soon. If you could please RSVP via email or by phone to help us order enough food!

Upcoming Events

04.23 to 04.26:
Woodside Spring Preview

04.30 to 05.03:
Woodside Spring Classic

05.14:
BBQ at PEMC for Matt

06.07:
Spring Down Equestrian
Center Horse Show

Email us your events:
web@peneq.com

West Nile virus Update: summer 2009

The season for West Nile Virus is rapidly approaching and 2009 is developing differently than in previous years. West Nile Virus cases tend to increase in June and July when warm weather approaches. Human and equine cases usually occur in Southern California and “move northward in incidence” through summer and fall months. PEMC receives biweekly state updates on disease incidence (human and equine) vector pads and carrier surveys. As of 4/15/09 there have been no human or equine cases of WNV reported. However, there have been 7 positive mosquito pools to date in 2009 and they have all been in or nearby Contra Costa County!

This year’s rainfall, coupled with financial challenges imposed upon local county mosquito abatement programs, pose a significant risk for WNV increase in 2009! Vaccination is effective and should be continued diligently to best protect our equine friends....for us humans, remain vigilant with mosquito abatement and personal mosquito repellants!

Biosecurity: Keeping Your Horse Healthy at Home and at the Shows

Every horse owner knows that it is easier to prevent a disease rather than treat their horse for it. Today, horses are being shipped in high numbers for shows, sale, or relocation. The risk of disease and infection is greatly increased in horses which travel and in horses stabled where there is movement of horses in and out of the facility. There are several methods, however, to prevent and decrease the incidence of disease in our horses.

Equine diseases are spread in several ways: direct contact between horses, contact with manure, insect or animal vectors, and aerosolized particles. Additionally, contaminated equipment, tack, transport vehicles, clothing, boots, or hands can spread disease. Sanitation, disinfection, proper vaccination, and veterinary care all help assure a healthy environment.

There are several simple and effective techniques to help protect horses from disease outbreaks. A carefully designed vaccination program, created in cooperation with a veterinarian, is one of the best means of helping horses remain healthy during the show season, and throughout the year. Biosecurity and biocontainment practices play a vital role in the health and prevention of disease. For example, insect control and manure management are important in reducing the incidence of parasites and infectious disease. If a horse in the barn does not appear healthy, clean its stall last. Wash your hands before touching other horses, and disinfect tack that may have come in contact with the sick horse. Call your veterinarian and keep a daily log of the horse’s temperature. When traveling or at shows, keep a careful watch for signs of upper respiratory infections or disease. Also avoid sharing water buckets, lip chains, feed tubs, halters, or other items that might touch a horse’s mouth, nose, or eyes. If you do share these items, be sure to follow proper sanitation and disinfection techniques first. For horses traveling considerable distances or coming in contact with multiple new horses, either directly or through shared items, consider having your veterinarian administer an immunomodulator, such as Zylexis, prior to travel to aid in the reduction of upper respiratory disease. Zylexis improves the immune response and is useful in reducing severity and duration of viral diseases. Overall, keep in mind the factors that increase incidence of disease and minimize them as much as possible. Preventing disease may require considerable effort, but it is well worth it in the long run.

Tip of the Month: Reduce Your Horse’s Risks of Gastric Ulcers

- ✓ Feed small meals frequently
- ✓ Increase forage and decrease grain
- ✓ Limit your use of NSAIDS (Bute, Banamine, Ketofen, Aspirin, etc.)
- ✓ If you need to use an NSAID, use a lower dose or one that is friendlier to the stomach (Equioxx)
- ✓ Reduce acid production & guard against ulcers during stressful events (shows, travel) with omeprazole (Ulcergard)
- ✓ For the chronic worrier, consider a product to coat the stomach.