

# Equine Health Line

October 2009

## Online Pharmacy

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

[www.peneq.com](http://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](mailto:web@peneq.com)

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



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## The latest in stem cells

Stem cells continue to be a topic of excitement because of their potential to regenerate a diverse cell type. Typically, stem cells are used in equine veterinary medicine for orthopedic injuries that involve tendons, ligaments, or joints. Prior to recent advances, these injuries were treated with palliative care to control pain and inflammation. Stem cell therapy offers the potential to improve the regenerative capability of a tissue. Equine stem cells have been derived from bone marrow, fat tissue, the umbilical cord and umbilical cord blood. Current research conducted by Celavet has led to the opportunity to use a line of stem cells termed "OK100" that has the same characteristics as embryonic stem cells. This is especially exciting because these cells have an unlimited ability to replicate and a greater capability to differentiate into multiple cell types. These cells are young and undifferentiated, therefore they can be used on any horse without causing a reaction or rejection. Additionally, because these cells do not have to be harvested and have already been processed, there is only a 1 day turnaround time for treatment as compared to 3 days to one month for adult stem cells. Stem cell therapy is an outstanding technology that can be used to speed the process of rehabilitation, and PenEq is pleased to add the modality of Celavet stem cells to our existing arsenal of stem cell products in our regenerative medicine regime.



Lesion in the SDFT

## From the Office

For all of you who have been caught scratching your head trying to figure out our monthly statements, scratch no more. We are in the process of converting our Improved database to the latest upgrade of Triple Crown. Although there are several steps to the conversion from training to actual "up and running" data transfer, we expect to be operational sooner rather than later.

The new software package will allow us to better serve all our clients and be more efficient in providing information. All your account and equine information will be at our finger tips. No more, "excuse me but I have to switch to another screen...and another and another because with the new software, all information is kept together including any x-rays, ultrasounds or bone scans your horse may have had. All this information will be available right there under your name and account number.

Of course when this conversion takes place your monthly statements will look a bit different, but more on that later as it is only a matter of time. Besides, you never know, you might even see your veterinarian arrive with their laptop and the ability for both of you to view your horse's file, x-rays and ultrasounds right there out in the field. Isn't technology terrific?!

## World Rabies Day

September 28, 2009

Rabies is a fatal neurologic disease that has been seen with increasing frequency in horses here in the US in recent years. According to the CDC, there were 42 confirmed cases of equine rabies in 2007 and 53 cases in 2006.

Clinical signs of rabies can develop up to 12 weeks after the initial infection. The most common signs of rabies are behavioral changes including but not limited to aggression, depression and fear. Rabies is an almost certainly fatal disease. There are no treatments available for rabies, thus prevention is key.

In observation of World Rabies Day, September 28, 2009, we here at Peninsula Equine, along with the AAEP encourage you to vaccinate your horses for rabies.

### Upcoming Events

**The Day of the Horse**  
October 10, 2009

Email us your events:  
web@peneq.com

## Pigeon Fever

Fall is here, and so is pigeon fever. This disease is caused by a soil-borne bacterium, *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. The organism gains entrance into the horse's body through abrasions or wounds, and many insects have been associated with spreading the disease. External abscesses are the most common presentation, most frequently on the chest. Horses often have fever, edema, abscesses and non-healing wounds, but may develop lameness. The treatment for external abscesses is drainage by your veterinarian, and most horses recover within 10-14 days. Internal infection is possible and can be much more severe, causing systemic illness. Currently, there is no vaccine for the disease. Good sanitation and strict fly control are the key to prevention.

## EQUINE METABOLIC SYNDROME

Equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) is a term that has been thrown around a lot in the equine community, often associated with weight gain and obesity. The terminology was first introduced in 2002 to better define a condition previously thought to be caused by hypothyroidism. The components of EMS include obesity, regional fat deposits and insulin resistance. The regional fat deposits often result in the "cresty" neck appearance as seen with the pony to the right.



The most common presentation for EMS is the obese horse with regional fat deposits that develops laminitis. Horses on grass pasture may be especially affected. While the association between EMS and laminitis is unclear, there are a myriad of hypotheses as to how the two could be related.

It is important to note that EMS is not the same as Cushing's disease. Cushing's disease is a condition often associated with pituitary gland hypertrophy that causes the horse higher blood levels of cortisol than it should. Unlike Cushing's disease which is commonly seen in the older horse, EMS is more commonly seen in younger horses but does occur at all ages. EMS is often diagnosed based upon clinical signs and bloodwork consistent with insulin resistance.

Both EMS and Cushing's disease are manageable conditions. EMS is most effectively treated with strict dietary changes. If you think your horse is overweight and could potentially have EMS, please discuss it with one of our staff veterinarians at your earliest convenience.

## Tip of the Month: Disaster preparedness

- ✓ Call Peninsula Equine to have your horse microchipped. Microchipping your horse can help reunite you with your horse after a disaster. Keep microchip info on file.
- ✓ Coordinate several sources in advance to trailer your horse away in case of an emergency. Also, keep your trailer well maintained so it is ready for emergency use.
- ✓ Have several alternate locations your horse could stay in case of a local and regional emergency.
- ✓ Have enough hay and water available for 48 to 72 hours.