



The Lead Line

Leading your horse to a healthy future.

Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic

August, 2022

Please join the Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic for our Fall Equine Roundup

September 21, 2022 ♦ 5:30 to 9 pm

(light dinner at 5:30, program begins at 6:30)

Walworth County Fairgrounds Horse Arena

509 E Court Street, Elkhorn, WI

With LIVE Demonstrations!

- ♦ Bandaging, Medicating, & At-Home Care Tips
- ♦ Saddle Fitting Considerations
- ♦ A Closer Look at the Prepurchase Exam
- ♦ Safe Horse Handling Techniques



The Roundup is free, but we still need a head count for dinner.

Please use the QR code to the left to register.

Questions? Call us at **262-723-2644 x 2** or email us at largeanimals@elkhornvet.com

We're Kicking Up Our Heels This Fall!

Covid kept us from hosting our spring equine seminars for the past three years. We didn't want to let any more time pass by without getting together. So we've decided to offer something really special this fall. Let's face it, nothing beats the real thing so our veterinarians have developed a program using live horses to help better teach their topic of choice. This year's program offers something of interest to every horse owner from newbie to old hand!

Our Fall Roundup will take place at the Walworth County Fairgrounds Horse Arena, in Elkhorn. The evening will kick off at 5:30 with a light dinner with the program beginning at 6:30. You'll have plenty of time to mingle, meet new friends and renew old acquaintances. **The Fall Roundup is free, but we want to make sure we have plenty of food. Please use the QR code above to register.**

Synopsis of Topics:

- ♦ Have you ever wondered what was entailed in a prepurchase exam? Dr. Phil Burns and Dr. Kristen Stowell will explain the benefits of the exam while going over several horses and describing their findings.
- ♦ Dr. Tess Tucker will teach you techniques to help you continue the veterinary care of your horse such as wound management, bandaging, administering oral medications, eye medications, and injections.
- ♦ Horses can be difficult to handle and dangerous when in distress or during veterinary visits. Dr. Ashley Slater will show you how to stay safe during veterinary visits as well as during medical emergencies before the veterinarian arrives.
- ♦ A good fitting saddle improves the overall performance of your horse and makes for a much more enjoyable riding experience. Dr. Tracy Busalacchi and Dr. Jessie Bridges will go over proper saddle fit for both english and western saddles.

Should I Call the Vet?

Some emergencies are easy to recognize, others are not.

Sometimes it's abundantly clear that your horse is having a medical emergency and needs to be seen as soon as possible. There are other times, however, when you may think your horse doesn't seem quite right, and you're not sure if you should call.

If you think your horse needs veterinary care, **please call!** Our staff takes your concerns seriously and will immediately let a veterinarian know of your horse's emergency. Generally, a veterinarian will call you to get a bit more information to help in determining the severity of the situation. **Keep your phone on and close by so you don't miss our call.** (Tip: The number may come up "Unknown Caller" or "Anonymous." Please answer it if you're waiting for a call from us.)

Contacting the clinic early with your concerns allows our veterinarians to better triage your case. There may be a veterinarian seeing an appointment in your vicinity and/or the after-hours veterinarian on call can be familiar with the case beforehand.

Easily recognized emergencies include:

- Hemorrhage or laceration - Call right away if your horse has a laceration with uncontrolled bleeding. If you think your horse's laceration will require sutures to heal properly, best results are achieved when the sutures are placed as soon as possible. Puncture wounds over a joint may not appear serious on first glance, but should be seen to make sure the joint isn't involved.
- If your horse is down and unable to rise.



- Non-weight bearing on any limb. (Although this sounds terrible, it may be a hoof abscess which will hopefully be easily remedied.)
- Excessive pain indicated by unexplained agitation such as sweating, tail wringing, kicking at the belly, repeatedly lying down and rising are signs of colic.

- Choke requires immediate attention to clear the esophagus of the impacted feed or foreign body. Signs of choke are feed or saliva coming out of the nose.



*Feedstuff or saliva coming out of the nostril is a sign of choke. (left)
Punctures over joints are a concern with joint sepsis. (right)*

- Breathing difficulties or rapid respiratory rate, often characterized by flared nostrils and exaggerated movement of the chest and flanks.
- Standing with the hind legs drawn under the belly and the front legs stretched out in front is the classic laminitis stance, a painful condition of the hooves. Early intervention and treatment will not only ease your horse's pain, but limit the progression of the disease.
- Holding an eye closed may indicate an ulcer on the eye which will heal more rapidly the earlier it is diagnosed and treatment initiated.
- If your horse isn't eating, is lethargic or doesn't appear to feel well for 12 hours or more, it's a good idea to take their temperature. A fever over 102 degrees is significant.
- Call if you notice any abnormal swellings, such as below the jaw or of the legs, especially coupled with fever.

Our large animal veterinarians provide emergency care around the clock, every day for our clients. Our first commitment is to quickly serve our existing clients and their animals. We consider someone we've seen in the past 18 months an existing client.

Leading your horse to a healthy future.

Alpha-2-Macroglobulin

A Revolutionary Orthobiologic Joint Injection Product

Alpha2EQ is a new regenerative medicine therapy recently being used by the Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic to treat osteoarthritis, tendon and ligament injuries, and non-healing wounds.

This new orthobiologic uses the horse's own circulating alpha-2 macroglobulin ($\alpha 2M$) by concentrating the protein through the advanced, patented AlphaActive™ Concentrate Process. This highly improved process leverages platelet rich plasma (PRP) methodology to concentrate plasma proteins from the equine patient's own blood, removing the harmful, inflammatory proteins that can remain in other autologous plasma products, giving us a pure $\alpha 2M$ product.

Research has shown A2M promotes joint restoration by relieving joint pain, hindering osteoarthritic changes, and preventing further joint narrowing/collapse. *Unlike steroid joint injections which can cause cartilage destruction over time, A2M inhibits cartilage breakdown and eliminates destructive inflammatory proteins.*

Alpha2EQ is especially useful for older, metabolic horses. It allows us to avoid corticosteroids which are contraindicated due to the increased risk for laminitis. And since it uses the horse's own blood products, there is no withdrawal for competition. One-time processing will yield enough product to use in several injection sites. Any extra may be frozen for use in the future.

Although a number of FEI and Olympic team veterinarians are currently using this product, we're pleased to be able to endorse a product that has also been tested and approved for humans.

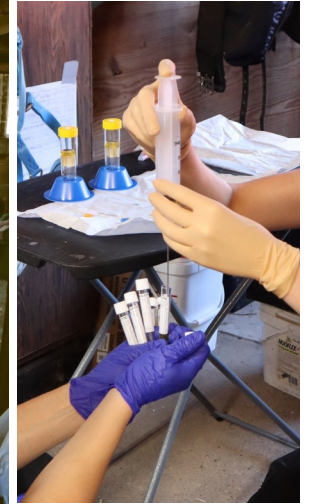
Brown University, collaborated with the National Institute of Health to publish groundbreaking research which demonstrated that when injected as a concentrated product, the naturally occurring A2M found within the human body can halt the progression of osteoarthritis, offer significant joint and cartilage protection, and alleviate joint pain. - Scott Brandt, MD, medical director of ThriveMD, and Gaetano Scuderi, M.D., the founder and president of Cytonics Corporation.

The Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic is currently using Alpha2EQ for joint injections (including coffins, pasterns, fetlocks, carpal, hocks, stifle, neck, back, and sacroiliac), local infusion for tendon or ligament injury, non-healing wounds, and splint exostosis. Our veterinarians are always willing to explain the procedure further and give their recommendations for your particular horse.



Blood drawn for $\alpha 2M$ processing (left).

Blood tubes are placed in the centrifuge to separate plasma (above).



While the hock joint is being prepped, further processing of the $\alpha 2M$ is performed and the syringes are prepared.

Excess plasma can be frozen and stored for later use.



In this particular case, Dr. Kristen Stowell was able to do the entire procedure from blood draw and processing to joint injection at the client's farm in approximately one hour.

Dr. Kristen Stowell injected the upper and lower joints in both hocks (left).

It's Never Too Early to Start Planning for Cold Weather

Yes, it's August. And it's hot. But soon the kids will be back in school and the leaves will begin to turn and before we know it, there will be frost on the ground, snow in the air and ice in the buckets. Planning for cold weather is best done early so we can make sure our horses are able to manage well during the bad weather. The Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic can help you with the following checklist:



- ☐ Your horse should be in good body condition with some fat covering the ribs. If thin, now is the time to start feeding a bit more hay and possibly grain to increase their condition.
- ☐ Schedule dental work now to make sure your horse is chewing properly and best utilizing their feed. This will help them attain a better body condition before it gets too cold. (Also, dentals are difficult to do in cold barns during extremely cold weather!)
- ☐ Now is a good time to have a fecal egg count done, if you haven't already done so. Plan to deworm your horse with the appropriate dewormer in October or November, after the first freeze.
- ☐ Keep your horse healthy from communicable diseases with fall vaccines, especially if they are socially active or reside in a barn with other horses attending shows or trail rides.

The Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic continues to accept enrollment in their Equine Wellness Program throughout the year. This program saves you money while providing excellent health care to your horse. It's easy to enroll! **Scan the QR code to the right** to learn more about our program and to complete the enrollment form. Or visit elkhornvet.com/services/equine-preventive-care.



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