



# The Lead Line

“Leading your horse to a healthy future.”

Elkhorn Veterinary Clinic

August, 2023

## Fall Seminar to be held September 20th

Be Part of the Roundup -  
Register Today!



Three ways to register:

Call: 262-723-2644

Email:  
largeanimals@elkhornvet.com

QR code:



[https://form.jotform.com/Elkhorn\\_Vet/2023-fall-equine-roundup](https://form.jotform.com/Elkhorn_Vet/2023-fall-equine-roundup)



Last year's fall seminar was extremely well-received, and we had such a good time putting it on, that we decided on an encore performance! For the second year we'll meet at the Walworth County Fairgrounds horse arena where we can use "live models" to demonstrate our subject matter. Come for a quick dinner, the brat and hot dog line will open at 5:30 with the presentations starting at 6:30. Please use the QR code above to register so we know how many to expect and to submit your questions for Dr. Burns' question & answer segment. It's sure to be another wonderful evening of learning (and laughter).

We believe we've put together another great set of wide ranging topics that will appeal to all of our horse clients:

- **Hay is for Horses: Basic Forage Analysis and Discussion with Dr. Ashley Slater**  
Can you guess which hay would be right for your horse? This presentation will cover basic hay analysis, where to send your hay samples, how to sample your hay and what you are looking for your special-needs horse. Bring your best guess as there will be hay samples present to choose from to see which one would be best suited for the metabolic horse!
- **Joint Injections: Where, When, and Why with Dr. Kristen Zainer**  
Dr. Kristen Zainer will be discussing the anatomy of joint injections, the different "cocktails" that can be used, and the reasons for each.
- **Equine Parasites: A Problem from Mississippi to Wisconsin with Dr. Walker Hyche**  
Dr. Walker Hyche will talk about internal parasites and the comparison of care between Wisconsin and Mississippi (hint: worms are tricky).
- **A Closer Look at the Neurologic Exam with Dr. Tess Tucker**  
There are multiple facets to the neurologic exam and Dr. Tess Tucker will take you step-by-step through the exam process and what various results may indicate.
- **Healing Lower Limb Injuries with Dr. Tracy Busalacchi**  
In keeping with her VSMT and sports medicine interests, Dr. Tracy Busalacchi will review options available to help heal and restore function to your horse's tendon or ligament injury.
- **Ask Dr. Burns ANYTHING (about horses) with Dr. Phil Burns**  
We know you have questions, and they are probably the same ones many of our clients have. Take this opportunity to ask them and have them answered at the seminar. It's easy, just submit your question with your seminar registration.



## Meet Dr. Walker Hyche

*Get to know our first veterinary intern.*

We're happy to introduce you to Dr. Walker Hyche, our first veterinary intern. Dr. Hyche recently graduated from the Mississippi State University School of Veterinary Medicine. For the next year, Walker will be working closely with our large animal doctors. When time allows, he's also planning to work a bit with our small animal veterinarians.

Dr. Hyche is originally from Meridian, Mississippi. Walker spent time helping with his grandparents' farm when he was younger, which included beef cattle, goats, and donkeys. This experience ignited his passion for veterinary medicine and working with large animals. Dr. Hyche's interests in veterinary medicine include equine lameness evaluation, internal medicine, and small ruminant medicine and surgery.

Away from veterinary medicine, Walker enjoys hunting, fishing, and going to the gym in his free time. He also is an avid Pittsburgh Steeler fan and cheers on the Ole Miss Rebels in any sporting event. Walker has a dog named Bo, that he neutered as his first surgery in veterinary school.

To learn more about Dr. Hyche and his reasons for choosing us, we asked him a few questions:

### *Why did you choose to do an internship?*

"Choosing an internship was a hard decision. When the opportunity arose, I saw an extreme advantage in advancing my knowledge and skills within large animal ambulatory medicine. Even if I end up doing a good bit of small animal medicine, I envision this internship allowing me to be more advanced with my large animal repertoire than an average mixed animal practitioner."

### *What made you decide to come to Elkhorn?*

"I visited the clinic before making the decision to accept the internship position. Everyone was very welcoming and reminded me of what I have been used to at home - "southern hospitality". The doctors were very enthusiastic and made sure I knew that they wanted this internship to be supportive and reasonable, unlike what other veterinary medicine internships can bring. I also thought of this opportunity as an adventure. I have lived in Mississippi for 26 years and wanted to experience something different."

### *How do you like Wisconsin so far?*

"So far, I love Wisconsin. This weather beats the 100-degree heat and humidity of home. We should do another Q&A once winter rolls around though, if my lips aren't frozen."

### *What are your ultimate goals?*

"I hope to be an excellent mixed animal practitioner. However, I would like to provide cutting-edge care and medicine to large animal patients within my community. I also want to offer the same standard of care to small animal patients. I am still determining where I will end up after my internship, but I hope to one day move back home and work in a mixed animal practice. I would also like to restart my family's beef cattle operation."

### *What would you like for our clients to know about you?*

"I want the clients that I will be meeting in the next year to know that I am very excited to be working with them and providing the best possible care for their animals. They should also probably get used to my accent and the fact I will likely start the conversation with 'how are y'all doin'."

## Dr. Kristen Zainer Weighs In on our Internship Program:

*"I count myself very fortunate to be a part of the Elkhorn Veterinary Team, and I am thrilled that we have been able to start an internship program for newly graduated veterinarians.*

*It is well known that there is a global shortage of large animal veterinarians. Every year, fewer and fewer veterinary students are electing to pursue a career focused in equine or farm animal medicine because of work/life balance concerns, debt to income ratio, mentorship opportunities, etc.*

*We are eager to help new graduates navigate life after academia and show them just how great our job can be. I know I speak for the rest of the clinic when I say that we are so excited to have Dr. Hyche joining us for the next year."*

~Dr. Kristen Zainer



# Cool News for Cooling Your Horse

From the AAEP Horse Owner Education Committee



**FACT:** A study from 2020 determined that the method that results in the **quickest return to normal body temperature is stationary with continuous tap water application** (2 minutes). Walking alone took the longest time for recovery (25 minutes).

AAEP<sup>®</sup>



**MYTH:**  
"Hot horses should be walked until they cool completely."



## MYTHBUSTERS

An old myth wants us to believe that horses should be walked until they cool completely after exercise, even in the summer. However, a study from 2020 looked at five different ways to cool a horse after exercise: walking, walking with fans, walking with intermittent cold water application, walking with intermittent cold water application and scraping, and stationary with continuous tap water application.

As it turns out, the method that resulted in the quickest return to normal body temperature was stationary with continuous tap water application (2 minutes), while walking alone took the longest time for recovery (25 minutes).

Bottom line: enjoy your rides in the sun this summer but remain vigilant for signs of heat stress in your horse. If they look tired, it's time for a drink, a cool bath, and a break in the shade.

## Autumn Preventive Care

- ✓ **DENTAL WORK:** Cold weather means your horse needs to take advantage of every calorie you provide. That may not be possible with teeth or mouth problems. Having your horse's mouth assessed by a veterinarian can help them go into winter in good condition and stay healthier.
- ✓ **VACCINATIONS:** Depending upon your horse's risk-level, they may be due for an equine influenza and/or equine rhinopneumonitis vaccination. Pregnant mares need additional rhinopneumonitis vaccinations at 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy. Additionally, a strep (strangles) vaccination may be indicated for comingled horses or those going to events. Your veterinarian is the best person to help in determining your horse's vaccination needs.
- ✓ **HEALTH & NUTRITIONAL EXAM:** Make sure your horse is going into winter healthy and with the proper amount of body weight. With an exam, our veterinarians can identify some issues before they become critical.



# 2023 Equine Wellness Program

Enrollment Open Year-Round

*It's never too late to enroll your horse in our  
Equine Wellness Program!*

Take advantage of the 25% discounts on scheduled preventive care.

Realize even more savings with 10% discounts on all imaging, laboratory testing, and veterinary exams as soon as you enroll your horse.

Any preventive care services not performed by the end of the year will be refunded to you. If you choose, you may easily apply this prorated refund to the following year's Wellness Program.

Please call, email, or visit our website for more information and a complete list of services encompassed by our Equine Wellness Program.

**Use this QR code to easily enroll your horse today!**

*Contact us for assistance or more details.*



[https://form.jotform.com/Elkhorn\\_Vet/2023-Wellness-Program](https://form.jotform.com/Elkhorn_Vet/2023-Wellness-Program)

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