



Caswell County Horse Bits Newsletter May 2013

Hope everyone is getting ready for summer riding and horse shows. Just wanted to let you know that the Caswell County Horsemen's Association had another successful Coggins Clinic this year. Since the Caswell County Horsemen's Association has not met this year thus far, I will begin writing a short newsletter monthly with timely topics. I am looking at the possibility of having a Piedmont North Carolina Horse Expo and Trade Show here this fall. Several years ago, Wayne Ross and myself organized one which had over 500 hundred in attendance and was a great success. All of the help and suggestions would be appreciated.

Vaccinate Against Mosquito-Borne Diseases

Those horse owners that did not participate in the previous Coggins Clinic are urged to vaccinate their horses against mosquito-borne diseases. Yes it's mosquito season and it's time for equine owners across North Carolina to talk to their veterinarians about protecting their animals from mosquito-borne diseases.

West Nile virus and Eastern Equine Encephalomyelitis are endemic across North Carolina and can cause illness or death, but they can be prevented with a sequence of two vaccines.

In 2012, there were 20 confirmed cases of EEE and three cases of West Nile Virus according to Dr. Tom Ray, Director of Livestock Health Programs with the NCDA&CS Veterinary Division. But state officials say they expect up to four unreported cases for each one confirmed, making the possible impact much larger.

"North Carolina has an extended mosquito breeding period, so every horse owner should talk to their veterinarian about how to protect their animal year-round," State Veterinarian David Marshall said. "In addition to getting animals vaccinated, everyone needs to be extra vigilant now to reduce the breeding grounds for mosquitoes. Take the time now to rid your yard and pasture of any standing water to reduce the risk."

The EEE and WNV vaccinations initially require two shots, three to four weeks apart, for horses, mules and donkeys that have no prior vaccination history. Neither

vaccination fully protects the animal until several weeks after the second shot, so it is best to vaccinate as early in the mosquito season as possible.

Symptoms of EEE include impaired vision, aimless wandering, head pressing, circling, inability to swallow, irregular staggering gait, paralysis, convulsions and death.

Symptoms of WNV in horses can include loss of appetite and depression, fever, weakness or paralysis of hind limbs, convulsions, impaired vision or hyperexcitability.

People, horses and birds can become infected from a bite by a mosquito carrying the diseases, but there is no evidence that horses can transmit the virus to other horses, birds or people through direct contact.

First Aid on the Trail for Horse and Rider

With the warm weather and kids getting out of school here in Caswell County, I am sure several folks are gearing up for traveling with their horses for some leisure trail riding. Prior to setting out on the trail you or someone in the group should have first aid knowledge. A first aid kit for the rider and horse is a good idea when trail riding. Remember to keep a cell phone or other emergency signaling device on your person, not on the horse, in case you are separated. Either bring a lead rope and have the horse wear a halter underneath its bridle or use a bridle in which the bit detaches for tying.

First Aid for the Rider

Here are some ideas for what should go into a first aid kit for the rider:

- absorbent compress dressings (5 x 9 inches)
- adhesive bandages (assorted sizes)
- adhesive cloth tape (10 yards x 1 inch)
- antibiotic ointment packets (approximately 1 gram)
- antiseptic wipe packets
- packets of aspirin (81 mg each)
- blanket (space blanket)
- breathing barrier (with one-way valve)



First aid kit supplies can be stored in a pommel or cantle bag, and attached to the saddle during a trail ride.

- instant cold compress
- pair of nonlatex gloves (size: large)
- hydrocortisone ointment packets (approximately 1 gram each)
- scissors
- roller bandage (3 inches wide)
- roller bandage (4 inches wide)
- sterile gauze pads (3 x 3 inches)
- sterile gauze pads (4 x 4 inches)
- oral thermometer (non-mercury/nonglass)
- triangular bandages
- tweezers
- first aid instruction booklet

First Aid for the Horse

Here are some ideas for what should go into a first aid kit for a horse:

- emergency contact phone numbers
- syringes (large and small)
- cotton leg wraps
- sterile gauze
- non-stick pads
- cling wrap
- duct tape
- white medical tape (1 inch is a good width)
- disposable diapers (good for padding, etc.)
- Vet-Wrap or similar product
- disinfectant such as Betadine or Nolvasan
- sterile saline solution
- thermometer
- stethoscope
- flashlight (Newer LED types use less battery power and are very bright.)
- spare halter
- hoof pick
- tweezers
- bandage scissors
- latex exam gloves
- clean toweling
- wire cutters
- small roll of strong twine
- farrier's nail/shoe puller

Additional Items

Here are some ideas of what to bring with you when trail riding in addition to the first aid kit for rider and horse previously mentioned.

- Rain gear
- Sunglasses
- Sunscreen
- Insect repellent for you/your horse
- Hoofpick
- Easyboot
- Multipurpose knife
- Cell phone
- First aid kit
- Halter/lead rope
- Map
- Compass
- Snack/water
- Riding gloves if desired

If you have any horse related questions or how we can promote the horse industry here in Caswell County more, feel free to call me here at the office----336-694-4148 or send me an e-mail at joey_knight@ncsu.edu. Hope each and everyone of you have a safe summer while enjoying riding your horses.

Sincerely,



Joey E. Knight, III

Caswell County Extension Director

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