

OCEVS NEWS

911 Horse Care | Cost of Colic | Summer Vaccines | Hot Weather & Trail Tips

Online Pharmacy

Our online store now offers an exclusive and instant savings of \$15 and \$35 off **Prascend®** from Boehringer (BIV). This offer is not available anywhere else!

Specifically, you will save **\$15 off the 60-count and \$35 off the 160-count bottle**. The savings is automatic--no mail-ins, no apps, no hassle. Also check out the other June offers through Vet's First Choice.

And **Adequan** is back!

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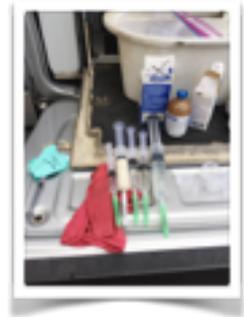
Facebook/Instagram

Visit our Facebook page **Orange County Equine Veterinary Services** to discover interesting articles and instantly receive alerts to important changes in the veterinary world that could affect you and your horse. Follow us on Instagram at **ocequinevetservices** to see what adventures Dr. Kat, Brianna and Denin are up to!

911 HORSE CARE

Imagine you are out of town or out to dinner, and come home to find several missed calls, voicemails, and texts that your horse has a medical emergency and the vet needs to be called. Now imagine that the vet has arrived and examined your horse, and determined he or she needs to be hospitalized or euthanized. Do your emergency contacts and your vet understand your wishes regarding the horse's medical care? Here are some guidelines you can follow to assure your horse is treated quickly and according to your wishes.

- **Emergency treatment authorization form:** We have created a form to allow treatment in the event that you are unable to be reached. Please call the office to get the form or visit our website at www.ocequine.com. Keep a copy for your records, and give a copy to your vet, emergency contacts and property manager.
- **Stall cards:** It's a good idea to have a stall card on the outside of your stall. This should include your contact information, your veterinarian's contact information, as well as an emergency contact that you authorize to make medical decisions on your behalf in the event you cannot be reached. If you would like a stall card template please feel free to contact our office. If you have a stall card already, please check that the information is up to date.
- **Vacations:** When you go on vacation or are out of town for an extended period of time it's always good to let your veterinarian know. Let the veterinary office and property manager know how long you will be gone, who is authorized to make medical decisions in your absence, and any insurance information if necessary. You can also authorize treatment up to a specific dollar amount in the event of an emergency in your absence. The emergency treatment authorization form is a great place to start.
- **Contact information:** It is important to keep your contact information up to date with your veterinarian and property manager. This includes updating your phone numbers and those of your emergency contact(s).



Summer Vaccination Time!

July Vaccinations:

- **Flu/Rhino**
- **Strangles (IM or IN booster)**
- **Strongid Dewormer**

Reminder that with the strangles vaccination you may notice some stiffness on the left side of the neck after the IM injection. This is common with this type of strangles administration. We recommend 2 grams of Bute powder or paste, for an average sized horse, be given 1-2 days following the vaccination. If you notice continuing stiffness for several days please do not hesitate to call our office.



Strangles is a contagious bacterial infection. It is transmitted by direct nose-to-nose contact. The clinical signs of strangles include fever, yellow or green nasal discharge, abscessed lymph nodes around the throat, and occasionally more severe internal illness and death in horses.

If your horse hasn't had a **fecal test** done within the last 12 months this is a good time to check their fecal egg count (FEC). Veterinarians use the FEC and other factors to develop optimum parasite treatment plans - deworming only when needed, with effective deworming products. Some horses may require as few as two dewormings a year, some up to 4 a year. ~

- **Emergency contacts:** A friend or trainer can act as a backup emergency contact. If you are traveling, you are likely with your family who may also be unreachable. Having a third party who understands your wishes regarding medical care can be crucial to your horse's treatment and care. Please have the conversation with all of your designated representatives so that they are fully informed of your wishes.

What does colic cost?

Having a clear idea about your wishes in the event of an emergency is always a good idea. Here are some considerations to take into account while making your decisions and filling out your emergency treatment authorization form.

- **Cost cap:** do you have a certain dollar amount you would like to not exceed?
- **Insurance:** is your horse insured? Medical? Mortality? If your horse is not insured, you can consider a program like Platinum Performance EqCO or SmartPak Colic Care that can help cover the cost of colic surgery. Does your vet have your insurance information?
- **Referral hospital:** Would I want my horse to be hospitalized in the event that more intensive care was needed? Which hospital would I want to send him or her to? OCEVS has close ties to Chino Valley Equine Hospital, but we are happy to work with any other referral hospital you prefer.
- **Medical colic:** Is my horse a candidate for medical management of colic? This typically includes IV fluid administration and a few days of 24 hour care in the hospital. Typical cost at CVEH can range from \$2,500-3,000.
- **Surgical colic:** Is my horse a candidate for colic surgery? Typical cost at CVEH can range from \$7,000-\$15,000 depending on the type of surgery and post-operative complications.
- **Hospitalization for other reasons:** Unfortunately there is an almost endless list of reasons hospitalization may be recommended. Do you have any specific wishes?
- **Hauler:** If hospitalization is necessary, who do you want to ship him there? Do you have a trailer? Do your emergency contacts know which shipper you prefer to use?
- **Euthanasia:** In the event that euthanasia needs to be performed for humane reasons, do you know what you would like to be done with the body? The most common are burial or cremation. ~

HOT WEATHER And Your Horse



With summer on the way we can all expect that the temperatures are going to increase. Possibly even warmer than last summer, reaching into the 100s! With that hotter weather we need to make sure we are all vigilant in monitoring our horses and how they react to the heat. Here are some helpful tips to keep your horse healthy and happy this summer.

1. Provide fresh, cool water and an electrolyte source. Make sure your horse has plenty of fresh, cool water. Metal automatic waterers in the stalls can often heat up quickly, filling a separate bucket in a shaded part of the stall with fresh water every day can offer your horse an additional water source. If your horse doesn't seem to be drinking, then encourage drinking by providing a salt block, or by misting hay with salt water. If your horse is sweating a great deal, adding electrolytes to their supplements can help keep their body in balance.
2. Lessen the work load. Just because your horse has been working at 1:00pm every day does not mean it can take the heat when the temperature tops 90+ degrees F. If you must work your horse in the heat, lighten the work or spread it out over a couple of short sessions. This is especially important when the humidity is high. Cool your horse down slowly, and offer sips of cool water. Remove your tack as soon as you're done and sponge off your horse with cool water.
3. Stick to a schedule. While trying to keep your horse as cool as possible, try to stay as close as possible to their normal schedule. Too much change at one time can be an invitation for colic.
4. Sunburn. All horses, especially white horses, can suffer from sunburn. Using a fly scrim can help. Applying sunblock to small, particularly vulnerable areas can also be helpful.
5. Clip horses with longer hair coats. Clipping is important, especially for horses with endocrine issues such as PPID, or Cushing's. While some coat can help provide protections from the sun and insulation, a long, thick coat tends to hold heat and make it difficult for the horse to cool down.
6. Know your horse and signs of heat stroke and dehydration. Heat stroke happens when your horse is exposed to excessive heat that their body cannot handle. Heat stroke can happen when exercising in hot conditions, but also can happen when standing in a hot stall or trailer. It's a good idea to know your horses' normal temp, heart, and respiratory rates. Signs of a heat stroke can include: elevated heart rate that does not return to normal in a reasonable period of time, excessive sweating or lack of, temperature that persists above 103 degrees F, and depression and/or lethargy,
7. Know how to spot when your horse may be dehydrated. Do a "pinch test." Pinch your horse's skin between your thumb and index finger and let it go. If the skin stays pinched for more than a second, your horse is probably dehydrated and needs to drink water right away. Also check the moisture of the gums. Lift your horse's lip and feel the gums, they should be as wet and slippery as yours! Call your vet immediately if you suspect heat stroke or dehydration.~



Trail Riding Tips

Summer means escaping that hot arena for the relief of the cool shaded trees of trail rides! But before you go make sure you review some safety tips to make your ride as enjoyable as possible.

Before you Leave:

- Tell someone where you plan to go and how long you will be gone.
- Check the weather and dress accordingly.
- If you are going to be gone for more than a hour or so pack snacks and drinks. Also make sure your horse has been fed and watered.

On the Trail:

- Ride with awareness. Know where problems might occur-such as water crossing, passing by a dog or car, or an unusual object on the trail.
- Keep two horse distance apart to avoid kicking.
- Go the speed of the greenest horse or most inexperienced rider.
- Warn riders behind you of low branches, stumps, holes, or other hazards.
- Walk your horse the last half-mile home. This will cool him off and prevent him from learning to rush back to the barn. ~