

OCEVS NEWS

1st Quarter | 2016

Online Pharmacy

Have you heard about our online pharmacy? You can order many medications and supplements in one easy, convenient place. With the OCEVS pharmacy through Vet's First Choice, you can even set up automatic refills! No more panicking about running out of your horse's important medications and supplements. Sign up today and receive \$25 off your first order of \$100 or more through March 16, 2016, with code WELCOME25. Call our office or visit our online pharmacy at www.ocequine.vetsfirstchoice.com.

Facebook/Instagram

Visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ocequine 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 www.instagram.com/ocequinevetservices to see what adventures Dr. Kat, Brianna, and Denin are up to!



A Spring Vaccine Transition - West Nile Vaccine in April?

This year, with the possibility of El Nino and warmer spring temperatures, we may be facing a surge in the mosquito population. With the early arrival of mosquito season, there is a potential of seeing a spike in the West Nile virus in Southern California. In order to provide the best protection for your horse, Team OCEVS has made the decision to adjust the vaccine schedule to provide maximum immunity against this disease. Starting this year, the West Nile vaccine will be given in the 2nd quarter (April), and the strangles vaccine will be moved to the 3rd quarter (July). This will allow your horse's immune system to create as many antibodies as possible before the peak of mosquito and West Nile season. For those who may be wondering, administering the annual West Nile vaccine a couple of months earlier than the one year mark should not produce any adverse effects for your horse. Although rare, should you notice any reactions (fever, lethargy, abnormal behavior, stiff or swollen injection sites, etc.), it is always advisable to contact our office and inform the veterinarian as soon as possible.



Equitarian Initiative - Costa Rica 2016

“Spending a week in Costa Rica with the Equitarian Initiative was an extremely rewarding experience for me and Brianna. The group of 27 vets, assistants, and students treated around 300 horses, donkeys and mules. The majority of the equids we saw were vital to their family’s livelihood. Many of the animals had never seen a veterinarian before. In under-served areas of the world, the cost and availability of veterinary care is one of their biggest challenges. It really made me appreciate how well our Orange County horses are cared for! I look forward to making another trip and donating my services. Stay tuned for ways you can become involved.”

- Dr. Katherine Fertig



Preventative Measures to Protect You and Your Horse

There are several incredibly easy ways you can reduce your and your horse’s exposure to mosquitoes! Check out these helpful hints to become the ultimate anti-mosquito horse owner.

- **Get rid of any standing water:** Mosquitoes don’t travel very far, so the mosquitoes you see were probably born on the property. Mosquitoes only need standing water for a week to complete the pupal and larval stages of life before they become adults and fly off in search of a food source.
- **Vaccination:** Be sure that your horse is up to date on the recommended vaccines. Your veterinarian is going to know which vaccine product or brand on the market is going to be the best for your horse this year. If your horse has not received a West Nile vaccine within the past year, ask the vet if a booster shot is needed.
- **Fly Gear:** Companies these days are able to come up with some of the most innovative fly protection for our equine friends, from fly wraps, fly masks, to fly sheets. Some even come with the added benefit of sun protection for your horse’s coat and eyes!
- **Fly Spray:** There are several different products out there. Oil- based sprays tend to last longer, even though they tend to attract dust. Studies have shown sprays that combine both permethrin and pyrethrin are the most effective against flies and mosquitoes. A new product on the market is called Ecovet Fly Repellent and it works as a fly hormone that confuses the fly so it can’t find your horse.

