



THAL EQUINE

Offering Quality Veterinary Care for Horses in Northern New Mexico

DOUGLAS THAL, DVM • CHASE KOHNE, DVM • STUART McCALL, DVM • MARY FLITNER, DVM

SPRING 2005

To Our Valued Clients and Friends,

It is with great excitement that I write this, the Spring 2005 edition of our newsletter. It has been eight years since I started the practice with a single vet truck. In that time, Thal Equine has undergone a transformation from a small, one-doctor equine practice to a four-doctor practice with four mobile units, a full service equine hospital in Taos, a small satellite in Las Vegas, and now full mobile service to the Santa Fe area. We have done this because there has been enough demand for a higher intensity, more well-equipped equine practice. Better horses and more horse people increasingly require a higher level of equine veterinary medicine.

We regularly perform colic surgery, arthroscopy and gastroscopy. We continue to provide detailed lameness exams, progressive dentistry, reproduction, and all the other areas of quality equine veterinary medicine that have made the reputation of the practice.

We are proud to welcome Dr. Stuart McCall and Dr. Mary Flitner to our practice. These two talented and experienced veterinarians will help us to continue to offer the best in equine medicine and surgery to our home area, and allow us to have the resources to enter the Santa Fe equine community.

Our website has had a makeover and is now a very useful resource. Educational brochures are available that you can download, and information on the full line of Platinum equine supplements (high quality products that we regularly recommend).

Once again, I want to thank you, our loyal clients, for standing by us all these years. We are more committed than ever to providing you and your horses with the best in equine veterinary care.

Best Wishes for a happy 2005!

Sincerely,

Doug Thal, DVM and the Staff of Thal Equine, LLC

Welcome, Dr. Stuart McCall and Dr. Mary Flitner!

We are proud to announce that two outstanding veterinarians have joined Thal Equine. Dr. Stuart McCall and Dr. Mary Flitner joined the practice in February and will help provide better service to clients in the Santa Fe and Las Vegas areas. Both veterinarians can be contacted through our Taos office.



Dr. Stuart McCall

Dr. McCall is working primarily in his home area of Santa Fe, where he has been practicing in general equine practice at the Ark Veterinary Hospital since 1989. Many of you already know Dr. McCall. We are excited to fuse his style of practice with ours. He extends the reach of our practice to the Santa Fe area. He is fully outfitted there to provide complete mobile service and has the resources of our Taos hospital available for horses needing more care.

Dr. McCall grew up in western North Carolina and has had a keen interest in horses since childhood. He graduated from Eastern School of Farriery in Martinsville Virginia in 1978 and worked as a professional farrier until graduation from veterinary school.

He attended Duke University, New Mexico State University and North Carolina State University and received a B.S. in Biology in 1982. He received a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from North Carolina State University in 1987. He worked at Carolina Equine Clinic in Southern Pines, North Carolina for two years in a surgical referral practice. Eventually, a love of New Mexico, riding in the mountains, and hunting and fishing brought him to Santa Fe.

Dr. McCall has special interest in farriery and in the prevention of lameness. He is also interested in the interaction between horses and people and their mutual education.



Dr. Mary Flitner

Dr. Mary Flitner is working primarily in the Las Vegas, New Mexico area a few days per week, which provides more coverage for that area. She is available for appointments and emergency calls through our main clinic number.

Dr. Flitner attended undergraduate and veterinary school at Colorado State University. In undergraduate school, she majored in Equine Science and was active in various equine activities, including horse judging, rodeo team, and the equestrian team. While in vet school she focused her education on equine medicine and surgery and was awarded the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (ACVS) Student award for excellence in equine surgery.

Dr. Flitner interned at Arizona Equine Medical and Surgical Center after graduating from vet school in 1997. Arizona Equine is a large referral clinic in the Phoenix area that draws referrals from four states as well as providing quality equine care to the local performance, pleasure and race horse population. Her internship gained her invaluable experience in equine medicine, surgery, reproduction, dentistry, lameness and neonatology.

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THE NEW FACE OF OUR PRACTICE

What does it mean to you?

Quite simply...

- Top quality service
- More services provided.
- High quality equine practice for more of northern New Mexico.

For all service, including emergencies, you must still call the Taos number. All calls are routed from there! **505-737-5322.**

Taos hospital

This facility is the center of our practice. Ours is the most well-equipped facility between Albuquerque and Denver.

It is a full-service equine clinic that provides the following:

- Advanced diagnostics including video gastroscopy, quality x-ray and ultrasound.
- Well equipped in-house laboratory.
- Surgery including colic surgery and

arthroscopy.

- Set up to provide excellent after-hours intensive care.
- We have video monitored, heated stalls and a veterinarian on premises.
- Team of on-call staff to provide support for intensive care and post-operative colic cases.

Santa Fe

We now offer service to the Santa Fe area!

Dr. McCall is fully outfitted to provide mobile service in Santa Fe. He is available for regularly scheduled appointments and taking emergencies.

Our satellite location for appointments in Santa Fe is at Gan Eden Ranch, off Highway 14, six miles southeast of I-25. We will house mares there for breeding and can hos-

pitalize horses if needed.

Surgical cases and intense medical cases will still go to the Taos hospital.

Dr. Thal will have also have scheduled days in the Santa Fe area. Call 505-737-5322 to schedule appointments and for emergencies.

Las Vegas and northeastern New Mexico

Dr. Mary Flitner provides service in this area. Dr. Thal will continue to have scheduled days here. The net result will be additional service for our Las Vegas area clients.

Serious medical and surgical cases will be cared for at the Taos hospital.

Taos and surrounding areas

Dr. Kohne, Dr. Thal and the Taos staff will continue to provide the same level of service to our Taos clientele.

Protect your horses with PreventiCare's Colic Assurance Plan

We encourage you to enroll your horses in the Pfizer Preventicare program. While we have many horses enrolled, there should be many more horses in the program. It is a good program that has helped many horses!

PreventiCare is basically colic insurance packaged with a program of routine preventative health care for your horse. It is provided by Pfizer Animal Health (manufacturer of Strongid C, the pelleted daily dewormer) and your veterinarian. The idea is that if you follow Pfizer's requirements for PreventiCare (which includes maintenance on Strongid C) and your horse suffers a bout of colic that requires surgery, Pfizer will pay \$5000 toward the cost of the colic surgery. Colic surgery is extremely expensive and this is a good way to protect your valued horses.

The idea is that by feeding a small measured amount of dewormer daily, colonization of the gut by parasites is prevented and so chronic damage to the gut is reduced and colic is less likely. Pfizer believes enough in the product to offer the program. My experience with Strongid C has been very positive. I must say that every horse that I have seen on Strongid C has improved in condition and in coat and seems to require less feed to maintain good condition. Pfizer stands behind the program and will pay without argument if the requirements have all been followed.

Here's how it works:

1. You enroll your horse in PreventiCare, and you prepay a flat fee for the service

for the year. We fill out the necessary paperwork and send it to Pfizer. This commits you to and pays for spring and fall veterinary visits which include recommended vaccines, twice annual deworming, brief exam and dental exam and advise on feeding or management.

2. You agree to have your vet perform whatever other work is indicated by the exams (dentistry, for example). The price does not include a farm or office call and does not include these additional services
3. The horse is started on and maintained on Strongid C. You must purchase all Strongid C from our practice. Our prices are competitive.

4. If your horse colics and requires colic surgery, we contact Pfizer. You still have to pay for the services as they are performed unless other arrangements have been made with the practice. Pfizer will then reimburse you up to \$5000 toward the cost of the surgery and aftercare.
5. You re-enroll each year to maintain your horses on the program.

This program makes sense if you plan to maintain your horse on a good preventative maintenance plan anyway. It is a little more expensive, but you get a lot for your money and lots of peace of mind.

Call the office to make an appointment to enroll your horse today!

Welcome, continued from Page 1

Dr. Flitner and her husband then moved to Wyoming to his family ranch. There she attended to the ranch's large herd of Quarter horses and commercial cattle. She also started a mixed animal veterinary clinic.

In the fall of 2004, Dr. Flitner and her husband sold her veterinary practice and their property and moved to the Las Vegas area to manage a ranch for her family.

When not busy with her two children and veterinary medicine, Dr. Flitner enjoys training barrel horses and developing and promoting their Quarter horse breeding program.

Though she enjoys all aspects of equine practice, Dr. Flitner has developed a particular interest in equine reproduction and dentistry. She is looking forward to serving the horse people in the Las Vegas area.

With the addition of these two experienced veterinarians, the practice now offers full equine veterinary services to the Santa Fe area and improved coverage for the Las Vegas area. Always call the main office number for appointments and emergencies.

For more information, go to www.thalequine.com, or call 505-737-5322.

WHAT'S NEW AT THAL EQUINE?

Microchip Identification

There is considerable change within the animal identification field these days. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is working on implementing a NAIS (National Animal Identification System). The idea of this system is to permanently ID all livestock, including horses, primarily so that animals can be tracked in case of a major disease outbreak and disease sources identified. It will also assist in animal recovery in the case of loss or theft.

We feel that microchip implantation will probably be a part of this. The A.V.I.D. system is the leading system in the country. More horses have been implanted with this chip than others. This is why we selected this system.

A.V.I.D. microchip identification is now available for your horses at Thal Equine. Microchips offer a permanent proof of ownership, with a unique ID number for your horse.

A.V.I.D. stands for American Veterinary Identification Devices. The microchip is a tiny computer chip, about the size of a grain of rice, which has an identification number programmed into it. It is encased in a smooth, strong biocompatible glass, small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle. This chip is injected deeply under the skin, into the nuchal ligament halfway between the poll and the withers, just below the mane. The microchip

must be implanted in a sterile way by a veterinarian. Done properly, it is a simple and very safe procedure.

Once implanted, the microchip is guaranteed for the life of the horse. This identification cannot be lost, altered or intentionally removed. Your horse will react to this in the same way as they would to any other injection. Once injected, the microchip is anchored in place by a thin layer of connective tissue that forms around it.

If a horse is sold, the ID number can be transferred to the new owner. Like other registration, it is important to keep this up to date.

Microchip identification offers horse owners an easily affordable way to permanently ID their animals. If the horse is stolen, the chip number provides law enforcement a way to identify the animal and gives you proof that it is your horse. The microchip information is backed up on the AVID database, as well as with your horse's veterinary records here at Thal Equine.

Quality Equine Supplements now available at Thal Equine

We are pleased to announce that Thal Equine now carries the full line of high quality Platinum Performance Equine therapeutic products.

From a veterinary standpoint, our doctors can advise you on the following:

- Your nutrition program: These products help provide basic nutrition. Daily requirements of trace minerals, proteins, vitamins, essential oils, and carbohydrates, as outlined by the National Research Council (NRC).
- Preventive nutrition: Supplementation of the diet to prevent deficiencies in specific nutrients caused by mineral deficiencies in the soil, and loss of nutrients during storing and manufacturing techniques. Preventative nutrition can reduce risk factors associated with degenerative diseases in horses.
- Therapeutic nutrition: Using specific nutrients and supplements to treat specific diseases and degenerative conditions.
- Sports nutrition: Utilizing a combination of nutrients, in amounts often exceeding those required for basic nutrition, to increase athletic performance and facilitate tissue healing.

Updated Thal Equine Website

Many new features and items have been added to the Thal Equine website. You can download AAEP's informative articles about horse health care on a variety of subjects, view the current and previous newsletter, and read articles by Dr. Thal on timely health care concerns.

Check it out! Go to www.thalequine.com.

EQUINE DENTISTRY

We offer excellent quality equine dental services with state-of-the-art equipment and the most experience in the region. We have a common sense approach to dentistry, and we tailor our dental approach to the whole horse and to the needs of the owner. Our vets are well equipped to provide these services.

While most horses require some dental maintenance, not all require intensive motorized dentistry on a regular schedule. I have always felt that too much dentistry is just as bad or worse than too little. Obviously, equine teeth have worked for them for millions of years. With the advent of powerful motorized instruments, it has become easy to take too much tooth or to damage teeth irreversibly, and some people have done this. It never made sense to me that we should be too aggressive in trying to change something that we didn't design in the first place. Years ago, I settled on a thorough but conservative approach.

Veterinarians' thoughts on dentistry have changed as we have seen how horses

which have gotten aggressive dental maintenance with motorized equipment have fared over the years. There have been many horses greatly helped by the smart use of these techniques. Unfortunately, some horses have been hurt by overaggressive use of power tools.

Some important points

- There is more and more controversy over how aggressive to be in shaping teeth, with the trend moving toward being more conservative.
- Recent research on normal horses has shown that in horses having no dental problems, there is no advantage (with respect to weight gain) to smoothing dental points versus leaving them alone to function as nature intended.
- The reason annual dentistry is often recommended is a matter of maintenance, and of preventing a problem of dental overgrowth in the future.
- Domestic horses have variable needs for dental maintenance and all need careful dental examination on a regular basis.

- The dental needs of performance horses in training may be different. Procedures practiced on these horses to "improve performance" should not be confused with those practiced for their basic health.
- It is also important to know that it is illegal in New Mexico for non-veterinarians to practice dentistry on your horse without direct supervision by a veterinarian. This means that the vet needs to have looked at your horse, and is present on the premises while the person is doing the teeth.
- It is illegal and unsafe for non-veterinarians to use sedatives and tranquilizers on your horse.

The equine veterinarians in our practice share the same goal: The well-being of the horse while performing at its best for its intended use. We start by looking at the general health of your horse and your specific needs. We then do a careful dental exam. With this knowledge, we can tailor a dental plan based on your horse's needs.

SPRING SPECIALS - MARCH THROUGH JUNE

INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING:

- Spring Veterinary Exam
 Dental Exam
 Deworming
 Vaccinations

The basic vaccines included in the spring special are EWT, West Nile, and flu/rhino. We are also offering a package with the intranasal flu vaccine. Call us for information on how and why to fit this into your program.

REASONS TO DO THE SPRING SPECIAL:

- IT IS IMPORTANT FOR YOUR HORSE'S HEALTH.** You expect your horses to give you good service. Proper preventative care will keep them healthier, performing better and living longer!
- IT IS COST EFFECTIVE.** By bundling these services we can give you a good deal! The spring special is not much more expensive than buying the separate products yourself.
- INCLUDES A BRIEF VETERINARY EXAM AND A DENTAL EXAM.** We will answer any questions you have as we examine your horse. Finding problems early saves you money in the long run. **A Thal Equine dental exam is thorough: each tooth is visualized and felt if needed.**
- WE USE ONLY THE FINEST PRODUCTS.** You can be sure that the vaccines and dewormers are high quality, non-reactive and appropriate for your situation. Liquid worming gives high blood levels of wormer and an effective kill of parasites. There are many different products out there. Let us provide you with the right ones!

This year's spring specials are as important as ever. West Nile Virus, although less of a problem at the moment, will always be here. It is critical to keep your horses vaccinated.

CALL THE CLINIC to set up an appointment or for more information. Discounts are given for 5 or more and for 10 or more horses at a location.

**HOURS: 8-4 M-F and 8-12 Sat. • Spring/Summer hours begin March 15: 8-5 M-F and 8-12 Sat.
24-HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE. 505-737-5322**

2005 SPRING SPECIALS

Service	Cost (1)	5 to 9 horses	10 or more
Spring Special #1: – EWT, West Nile, deworming, brief exam, dental exam. No flu/rhino.	\$50	\$47 each	\$44 each
Spring Special #2: EWT, flu/rhino, West Nile, deworming, brief exam, dental exam.	\$72	\$70 each	\$68 each
Spring Special #3: EWT, IM rhino and intranasal flu, West Nile, deworming, brief exam, dental exam.	\$76	\$74 each	\$72 each

Deworming options

Ivermectin liquid included in specials. If you choose Equimax paste or Quest Plus for tapeworms, add \$8.00 to these prices.

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION

WITH COOLED, SHIPPED SEMEN

Thinking of breeding your mare this year?

Contact us or check our website for more information.



While we encourage you to have us examine your horses as part of the spring special, we will dispense vaccines at competitive prices. We also have other vaccines available. Call us for details.

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