



To Our Clients and Friends,

Our goal has always been to bring the highest level of equine veterinary care to our region. We have diligently sought to improve and expand our services by hiring and training additional staff, improve our facilities, offer state-of-the-art radiographs and other quality diagnostics, and provide 24/7/365 emergency care. It has not always been easy, especially in this economy, but we are doing our best and we thank you for your support.

In keeping with our goal, I am very excited to announce that Dr. Berkley Chesen DVM DACVS-LA has joined our practice. She is highly trained and able to handle the most complex surgical cases. She is also certified in equine acupuncture. She comes to New Mexico by way of her husband, who grew up in Santa Fe.

Dr. Chesen's arrival at Thal Equine is a very exciting development. **For a horse owner seeking a surgical solution to a challenging problem, a board certified surgeon such as Dr. Chesen represents the highest standard available.** No longer must you travel great distances (often, out of state) to have such services performed. Dr. Chesen is one of only two board certified equine surgeons currently practicing in New Mexico.

For those of you who use veterinary practices other than ours as your primary veterinary caregiver, it is still vital for you to be familiar with Thal Equine. Our goal is to work with your veterinarian to provide specialized services that he or she may not offer. Despite the tough times in the horse world and the national economy, your horses still need the best possible care. When you have a tough equine health problem, look to Thal Equine for a thorough and practical approach to solving it.

Have a wonderful fall season.

Doug Thal, DVM and staff

## Berkley Chesen DVM DACVS-LA Joins Thal Equine

Alyson "Berkley" Chesen DVM DACVS-LA is a life-long horsewoman. Following graduation from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine, she worked as a clinician at the world famous Hagerd Equine Medical Institute in Kentucky for five years. She then completed her surgical residency at Texas A&M School of Veterinary Medicine in 2008. She stayed on at Texas A&M for a year as a staff surgeon and lecturer. As both a clinician and resident, Dr. Chesen worked alongside some of the most competent practitioners in equine surgery and medicine, and now brings her expertise to us. In addition to Dr. Chesen's considerable surgical training, she is also certified in equine acupuncture. This complement of western and eastern medical training is unique, and will greatly benefit horses in our region.

### What is A Board Certified Equine Surgeon?

Dr. Chesen is board certified with the American College of Veterinary Surgeons (see [www.acvs.org](http://www.acvs.org)). A veterinarian wishing to become an ACVS Board Certified Surgeon must complete a one-year internship and three-year residency program. An ACVS candidate must also meet specific training and case-load requirements, as well as perform and publish a scientific investigational study. Candidates then take a rigorous certifying examination. Only



candidates who have successfully completed these requirements may become Diplomats of the American College of Veterinary Surgery and have earned the right to be called "Specialists in Veterinary Surgery." ACVS certified equine surgeons have advanced training in the newest techniques in equine surgery and lameness.

Dr. Chesen has extensive training and is experienced in arthroscopy, orthopedics, colic surgery and a wide range of other areas. She also has a strong interest in challenging equine medical cases and foal intensive care.

## ACUPUNCTURE: ANOTHER TOOL FOR DIAGNOSTICS AND ANOTHER OPTION FOR TREATMENT

By Berkley Chesen DVM DACVS-LA

An interconnected and interdependent thought process drives acupuncture for both diagnostics and treatments. Acupuncture approaches diagnostics and treatments by looking at the whole, not just a symptom. For example, the horse's environment, herd mates, time of day, etc. are taken into account when examining a horse for a problem. Acupuncture is thousands of years old and has evolved slowly through a tumultuous journey surviving bans and newer forms of medicine. Acupuncture should be viewed in the western world as an additional tool with which to diagnose and treat patients. It is not a panacea, but a very useful modality with a scientific premise.

While I was in veterinary school, we had no formal exposure to complimentary modalities such as acupuncture. Now, most veterinary schools do offer courses covering such therapies. During my five years in Central Kentucky, almost a third of my practice was acupuncture. I became certified through IVAS (International Veterinary Acupuncture Society) to practice acupuncture. In the beginning of my acupuncture career, it was often used as a "last ditch



effort" when everything else had failed. As the modality became more recognized and farm managers and owners saw a difference in the horses, it became a more common form of treatment, earlier in the course of a disease or condition. Each case is different but most cases are treated every two to three days for three to four treatments and then less frequently,

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# Northern New Mexico's Only Fully Equipped Equine Hospital

Office Hours - 8:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 5 p.m. Monday through Friday • Saturday 8:30 a.m. - noon  
24-Hour Emergency Service for clinic calls and mobile service to the Santa Fe area

**THAL EQUINE IS YOUR 24-HOUR EQUINE EMERGENCY RESOURCE!**

Please see our website [www.thalequine.com](http://www.thalequine.com) for a complete list of services.

Clinic/Emergency number: **505-438-6590** Email: [drthal@thalequine.com](mailto:drthal@thalequine.com)

## Infectious Disease and Regulatory Update

GOOD NEWS: As of August 26, 2009, there are no more premises under quarantine for **Vesicular Stomatitis** in New Mexico, and the restrictions to travel for New Mexico horses have been lifted. Vesicular stomatitis causes blister-like lesions in the mouth of horses and some other livestock and is a reportable disease. Horse owners should still be on the lookout for the symptoms of disease and call their veterinarians if they see suspicious signs. For more information about this disease, see our web site [www.thalequine.com](http://www.thalequine.com), articles section, two PDF documents on Vesicular Stomatitis.

**West Nile Virus** is on the increase this late summer. A large mosquito population may account for an increase in West Nile Virus in both people and horses in our state. These cases have mostly been in southern New Mexico. The way to protect horses is through adequate annual vaccination and aggressive mosquito control.

There has been an outbreak of **Eastern Encephalitis** in horses in Texas. We may not see the disease reach here but it highlights the importance of vaccination for encephalitis other than West Nile.

Keep in mind that the Federal Government strongly encourages all organizers of equine gatherings to require **Coggins** tests. Check regulations at any equine event before you plan your trip. Insure that you have the documents you need.

## ACUPUNCTURE

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as deemed necessary by the individual case.

Acupuncture is an additional tool to use for both helping diagnose and treat chronic and acute injury and disease. It is not a substitute for western health care such as routine vaccinations or dentistry but it can be very beneficial in place of or in addition to other treatments and even surgeries.

With a solid background in veterinary medicine and surgical specialty training, I have found that acupuncture has a place in treating equines. By approaching health issues from another direction, acupuncture has helped me become a well-rounded and better veterinarian able to offer a more complete diagnosis and treatment.

## DR. THAL'S RECOMMENDED VETERINARY SUPPLIES

**Overnight shipping, competitive prices. See our web site - [www.thalequine.com](http://www.thalequine.com) - Preferred Veterinary Products page**

## Fall Wellness Exams and 10% off Vaccination Special!

We are giving a 10% discount on all vaccinations and routine work scheduled in September and October. We check teeth, listen to hearts, and will even have a brief look at your horse in motion.

If you have questions about the health of your horses, this is your opportunity! Recommended vaccines for the Fall 2009 are Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis.

## New Staff - Welcome to Thal Equine!

**Sarah Feathers DVM** is our 2009-2010 resident veterinarian. She grew up on a horse farm in Tennessee and has competed in a variety of equine disciplines. She graduated from the University of Tennessee School of Veterinary Medicine this past May. Dr. Feathers has a strong interest in equine reproduction, medicine and lameness. Although she just started her internship in June, Dr. Feathers has already proven that she is a smart and competent equine practitioner who cares about horses and horse people. We are excited to have her here and look forward to a great year with her.

**Tara Scully RVT** is a registered veterinary technician who comes to us after four years of work in equine intensive care at the University of Georgia School of Veterinary Medicine. Tara is committed to helping provide the highest quality equine veterinary care at our hospital. She has a special interest in the critical care of foals and adult horses.

Thal Equine, LLC  
69 Bonanza Creek Road  
Santa Fe, NM 87508

