

FALL 2011 NEWSLETTER FROM THAL EQUINE



THAL EQUINE LLC

REGIONAL EQUINE HOSPITAL • HORSE OWNER EDUCATION & RESOURCES
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO • 505-438-6590

To Our Clients & Friends,

After a hot and dry summer, we hope you are enjoying this beautiful September weather and have a chance to spend time with your horses.

We are doing some exciting things in our practice. We continue to provide top quality veterinary care for horses with a special focus on horse owner education. Historically, I have tried hard to provide my clientele with good educational resources. It is my belief that horses receive the best care from owners that are well-educated about equine health care, and those that maintain a strong relationship with their equine veterinarian.

I have authored numerous articles on equine health care in the past 10 years and hosted numerous client seminars. This year we have had seminars on first aid, colic, and other topics. They have been well received. Based on client feedback, I am hosting two small workshops that will provide attendees with quality hands-on experience with live horses. It is my goal to provide a quality one-of-a-kind tutorial on equine health care to the select group of attendees.

Of course, we also continue to provide the best in equine veterinary medicine, including emergency services, detailed lameness exams, intensive care with staff on-site, colic surgery and all the other services we are known to provide. See our newly updated website for a complete list of our services www.thalequine.com.

We wish you a wonderful fall!

Sincerely, Doug Thal DVM Dipl. ABVP & The Staff of Thal Equine

- CLIENT EDUCATION CALENDAR -

Horse Owner's Lameness Essentials

Saturday October 1st, 2011 from 9 am-12 pm At Our Facility

Lameness is the leading cause of equine loss of use and is a daily concern for pleasure and performance horse owners, riders and trainers. As an equine veterinarian, I deal with lameness problems and their consequences every day. I have always felt strongly that horse enthusiasts should know the basics of equine musculoskeletal anatomy and function and should know how to recognize and avoid common lameness problems.

With this in mind, we are offering a 3 hour workshop consisting of discussion and a live horse demonstration that is focused only on what you really need to know.

- The key points a horse owner should know about forelimb and hind limb anatomy and function.
- Recognizing and avoiding common lameness conditions.
- How to do a quick assessment of your horse's front and rear legs - live horse demonstration.
- How to do a quick assessment for lameness in your horse - live horse demonstration.
- Live horse hands-on participation for everyone. One small group in which everyone will participate.

Call early to reserve your spot. Participation is limited to 12 people to ensure a quality hands-on experience. Fee \$30.00 payable in advance.

This Workshop is Full. If you would like to be on the list for our next equine lameness seminar (date tba), please call our office.

Horse Behavioral Workshop

Saturday October 15th, from 9 am - 11 am At Our Facility

Dr. Thal and horse trainer Loal Tucker will discuss common behavioral issues on the ground and how to work through them. All of these behaviors are very similar and can be dealt with using simple principles of gentle, but firm and consistent communication. If you have a horse that is particularly difficult in any way, talk to us about bringing it to the workshop for demonstration purposes.

Examples that will be discussed and demonstrated include horses that are difficult to catch, difficult to load, horses that are difficult to medicate, worm, or inject, and horses that are difficult when handling their ears and their feet. If you have another issue with your horse, we would be happy to address it at the workshop.

Call early to reserve your spot. Participation is limited to 12 people to ensure a quality hands-on experience. Fee \$30.00 payable in advance.

Note – This Workshop is Filling up Fast!

We will have more of these seminars throughout the fall and winter. Watch our website and Facebook for announcements.

- RABIES IN HORSES IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO -

Vaccinating your horses for rabies makes good sense. Rabies has been a rare disease in horses but it was recently diagnosed in a horse in Eddy County, in the southern part of the State. Several people were apparently exposed to the horse's saliva and had to undergo testing to ensure they did not contract the virus.

Rabies is an almost uniformly fatal viral disease that affects the nervous system. Signs of disease are extremely varied and can include depression, loss of appetite, fever, colic, uncoordination, difficulty swallowing, lameness, odd behavioral changes, straining to urinate or defecate, convulsions and death. Horses that become infected by the rabies virus do not show signs of disease for several days and can transmit disease to other animals and people through contact with their saliva.

Vaccination helps prevent rabies in horses. Rabies vaccination is an annual, relatively inexpensive vaccine, with a low adverse reaction rate. It is a core vaccine recommended by the American Association of Equine Practitioners. My recommendation at this time is to vaccinate your horses for rabies annually.

- THE THAL EQUINE FALL SPECIAL -

It's time for fall vaccinations and exams. Fall is an important time to evaluate horses to ensure they are going into the winter in good health. Our standard fall vaccine is flu/rhino. See www.thalequine.com for my updated article entitled "Equine Infectious Diseases & Prevention in 2011." Three additional reasons to consider the Thal Equine 2011 Fall Special:

- 1. Regular care.** Routine vaccinations and a program of parasite control are important for your horse's health.
- 2. Learn about your horse.** Our fall special includes a brief veterinary and dental exam. We will answer any questions you have as we examine your horse. Finding and preventing health problems early on can save you money in the long run.
- 3. Quality products.** We use only superior quality vaccines and dewormers, tailored to your horse's needs. Vaccines are not all created equal. Proper administration prevents most

adverse reactions and ensures maximal efficacy. Our vaccine manufacturers stand behind their products and will help pay for treatment should your horse contract the disease that the vaccine is intended to prevent.

- LAS VEGAS & MORA AREA APPOINTMENTS -

Dr Thal will be visiting the Las Vegas/ Mora areas for appointments on the following dates:

- **Thursday, October 13th** • **Thursday, October 27th** • **Thursday, November 10th** •

Clients that live in and around Las Vegas and Mora, please call the office to schedule your appointment on one of these dates.

- TARGETED PARASITE CONTROL & FECAL TESTING -

Today the emphasis in equine parasite control is on targeted deworming. Parasite resistance is becoming a very serious problem. Rather than flooding our horses with random dewormers, we should be using effective wormers at the right time and in the right horses. In general, we should be worming fewer times than we did in the past, to keep excessive deworming agents out of the environment and reduce resistance. In combination with this, we recommend fecal testing at least once annually. This should be done at least 8 weeks after deworming with an ivermectin compound or 12 weeks after using moxidectin (Quest).

Give us a call or send me an e-mail with questions about how to manage your horses with minimal, targeted deworming. For more information, see my article “Parasite Management in Horses: A New Paradigm” available on our website.

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