

Equine NEWS

COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE | SUMMER 2006 | VOLUME 3, NUMBER 3

Pigeon Fever May Appear During Summer Months

Pigeon fever is not a new equine disease in the western United States, but the reported number of cases in several states such as Wyoming and Colorado has dramatically risen over the past several years for unknown reasons. In 2005, Washington seems to have joined that group.

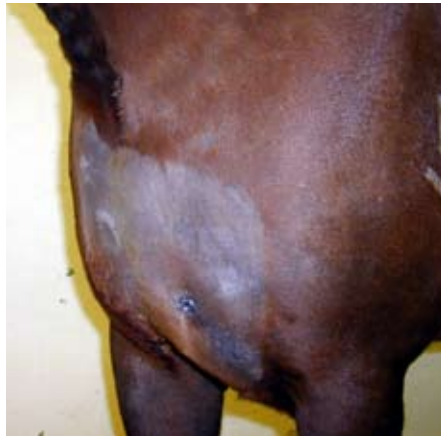
"There was a big increase last year compared to previous years, with pigeon fever cases dramatically increasing in August," said **Dr. Erin Groover**, a WSU large animal medicine instructor and board-certified specialist in equine internal medicine. "Pigeon fever was seen in Montana and Idaho as well."

Although pigeon fever sounds avian in nature, it is a highly contagious bacterial disease that infects horses and has nothing to do with birds. It is also known by other names, including pigeon breast disease, breastbone fever, dryland distemper, or dryland strangles. The disease gets its name from the large abscesses that typically form in the pectoral muscles of horses, which over time enlarge those tissues and cause them to resemble a pigeon breast.

Abscesses can also form in the area of a horse's under-belly, mammary glands, hips, between the hind legs, and the head and neck. In some cases, large abscesses may form in the internal organs, making diagnosis and treatment challenging, and a full recovery difficult.

The bacteria that causes the disease, *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*, lives in the soil of arid regions, such as in the western or southwestern United States. It is believed to be transmitted through wounds and abrasions in the skin, as well as by flies, including the common house fly and horn fly. Because flies are involved, pigeon fever is mostly a seasonal disease, with most cases appearing in late summer and early fall.

Once a horse is infected, it can take up to three or four weeks for symptoms to appear. Symptoms can include lethargy, a mild to moderate fever of 102–103 degrees F, lameness, and weight loss. Eventually, the horse may develop one or more deep



*Swollen, painful chest in a horse with "pigeon fever" due to an abscess in the pectoral muscles caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*.*

abscesses and sores on various parts of the body, typically in the area of the lower neck, chest, and abdomen. In most cases, only one abscess will develop in a single area.

Pigeon fever can resemble other diseases, so for a proper diagnosis veterinarians often submit samples collected from affected animals for culture and analysis at a diagnostic laboratory, such as the Washington State Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory at WSU in Pullman.

"Although the abscesses can be dramatic, the prognosis for most horses with pigeon fever is very good," Dr. Groover said. Fatalities can occur, however, in cases where internal abscesses have formed.

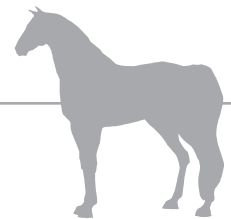
"Not all horses on a farm will develop the disease, but horses that do have it

should be isolated," she said.

Humans do not get the disease, but should be careful not to spread it to other horses through contaminated shoes, clothing, hands, and tack supplies after dealing with an infected horse. Good hygiene and sanitation is key to treating a sick horse.

For proper sanitation, a bucket lined with a plastic bag should be used to collect pus from draining abscesses. The infectious

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Complications with Intramuscular Drugs

Many people administer intramuscular medications to their horses. In most cases, complications do not arise, especially if the veterinarian who prescribed the drug properly instructed the owner or trainer on how to give the drug.

But problems can and do occur in horses who receive intramuscular injections. These can range from a stiff and sore neck to swelling and severe abscesses at the injection site. Clostridial myonecrosis is a potentially life-threatening condition resulting from a bacterial infection that can develop after injection.

"This condition develops alarmingly fast," said **Dr. Debra Sellon**, a WSU professor and board certified veterinarian in equine internal medicine. "Horses can show signs of clostridial infection within six to 24 hours after the injection, and some die within that time frame. This may scare some owners, but it illustrates the need to be aware of potential consequences and inherent risks that come from using drugs that are injected into muscles."

Intramuscular medications include antibiotics, vaccines, sedatives, and anti-inflammatory drugs. Because of the risks, these drugs should only be administered on the recommendation of a veterinarian.

"If owners want to give injections, they should have their veterinarian show them where, how to give it, at which sites, and make sure the drugs are approved for intramuscular use," Dr. Sellon said. "Some intramuscular pain medications that we commonly see problems with are also available as oral medications."

The most common sites to administer intramuscular drugs are in a triangular area along the side of a horse's neck. Other sites include the hamstring muscles in the hind legs, and in the pectoral or breast muscle.

"Veterinarians like these sites because they can easily drain in case of an infection," Dr. Sellon explained. "Owners should check the injection site for several days after giving the injection to monitor any problems that may occur. Minor stiffness or swelling is OK, but if the horse develops a fever and gets so stiff and sore that it stops eating or has a hard time getting around, call a veterinarian immediately."

Other signs to watch for include agitation, shivering, or shaking, which may indicate an adverse drug reaction.

If a clostridial infection is the problem, signs quickly develop and include a high fever of about 104 to 105 degrees F, a swollen and painful injection site, depression, and a lack of eating. "This bacteria produces toxins that make the horse systemically sick," Dr. Sellon said. "Even with treatment, 25 percent or more of affected horses die from it, but the sooner a veterinarian is called to help, the better the odds."

"Unfortunately, clostridial infections can occur from virtually any injection, and can happen even if a person uses the correct technique, the correct drug, and proper sanitation," she said. "Abscesses and infections can occur from injecting a drug into a dirty site or the wrong spot, but clostridial infections can happen even if everything was done correctly. Like anything, owners should analyze the risk-benefit ratio before administering intramuscular drugs."

For more information about intra-muscular drugs or how to inject them, contact the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital at 509-335-0711, or Dr. Sellon at 509-335-0733 or dsellon@vetmed.wsu.edu. 📍



A clostridial infection in a horse from a properly administered intramuscular vaccine on the right side of the neck. The horse was treated at WSU and survived, but would not have without treatment, said Dr. Debra Sellon, WSU equine internal medicine specialist. The white tubes near the infection site in the photo are to help drain the infection.

Pigeon Fever *continued from page 1*

material should then be disposed properly in the garbage, or washed thoroughly down the drain. Buckets, tools, tack, and the stall or paddock used to care for the infected horse should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected. Used bedding, straw, or other materials should also be disposed of consistently and carefully.

Abscesses should be treated with hot packs or poultices to encourage consolidation and drainage. Once they are open, abscesses should be flushed regularly with a saline or antiseptic solution. Open wounds can also be packed with antiseptic gauze.

Veterinarians often lance mature abscesses to help drain fluid, and may ultrasound deep or internal abscesses to accurately

lance and drain those as well. Anti-inflammatory medication is often prescribed to control pain and swelling for the horse. Antibiotics are generally not prescribed, except in cases of internal abscesses or systemic infection.

Just as the disease takes time to develop, it may take weeks or even months for pigeon fever abscesses to heal. There is no vaccine for pigeon fever and it is difficult to prevent.

"Owners can try to minimize the risk of infection by controlling flies and standing water on a property, and by maintaining good hygiene for their horses," Dr. Groover said.

For more information or for diagnosis, contact the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital at 509-335-0711. 📍

Stallion Infertility and Breeding Soundness Examinations



Diagnosing and treating infertility in horses can present a considerable challenge for owners and veterinarians.

The first order of business when a mare fails to become pregnant is to accurately discover the cause. Does the problem lie with the mare or the stallion?

For horse breeders, this can cost a lot of time, effort, and money to arrive at an answer, especially if the problem occurs in the middle of breeding season. Pre-breeding exams for both mares and stallions can help discover or eliminate infertility problems before the breeding season occurs.

"Infertility in stallions is not an all or nothing situation," said **Dr. Ahmed Tibary**, WSU's large animal theriogenologist, or reproduction specialist, who has evaluated and treated infertility in horses for more than 20 years. "Some stallions may have reduced fertility rather than complete sterility, which can cause a lot of lost time and resources for breeders if the stallion's fertility is unknown before the breeding season. That is why we advise anybody who is using a stallion to do a pre- and post-breeding season breeding soundness evaluation.

"The term fertility or infertility varies from one person to another," Dr. Tibary continued. "It can depend on how many mares are booked to one stallion. If you have a stallion with marginal semen quality, but is only booked to four or five mares, he often can impregnate them. But in the thoroughbred industry, there are some stallions that are booked to as many as 250 mares in one breeding season, which means they are breeding every six to eight hours.

"So fertility in practical terms might not mean whether or not a stallion can impregnate mares, but whether or not he can sustain semen production throughout the breeding season," he explained. "With a breeding soundness evaluation at WSU, we can examine a stallion before the breeding season and predict whether the stallion will easily fulfill his book or whether he will have trouble. That information will actually give you an idea about how to use that stallion."

There are many factors that affect fertility and semen production, including general health, lameness, and even behavior problems. Some drugs used to treat diseases may also have an effect, as well as how the stallion was managed throughout each breeding season and over the years.

Age also affects stallion fertility, with peak breeding years beginning around age five and generally declining at approximately 16 or 17 years of age.

At WSU, a stallion breeding soundness evaluation includes a physical examination and a reproductive behavior analysis, in which the horse's mounting behavior is examined and two samples of semen are collected. The semen is analyzed to determine sperm cell numbers,

quality, semen volume, and other indicators of fertility. The samples are also checked for select bacteria and viruses to make sure the horse does not have transmittable diseases.

"If the stallion passes all these tests without any problems, then nothing further is required," Dr. Tibary said. "If he doesn't, a very rigorous standardized examination protocol is performed to determine the cause."

The most common internal cause of infertility seen at WSU is poor quality semen due to abnormal sperm cells, low sperm numbers, or low sperm motility (how sperm cells move). These issues are often related to congenital or acquired testicular problems. Hemospermia is another common fertility problem, in which blood is present in the semen. This severely affects semen quality and can be related to a defect, infection, or inflammation of the internal sex glands or urinary tract.

Some stallions may also develop problems during breeding season. Many of these have signs owners may be able to detect, such as a sudden increase in testicular size, edema in the scrotum, or penile prolapse.

"These visible problems should be considered an emergency, and be evaluated immediately," Dr. Tibary said. "What is very challenging with infertility problems is that many of them do not manifest outward clinical signs. These problems can range from failure of ejaculation to an abnormal quantity or quality of semen."

Adding to this challenge are fertility problems that stem from parts of the body other than the reproductive organs. One example is ejaculation failure, which can be related to back pain. "At WSU, there is a big advantage in that I can consult with other equine specialists in lameness, internal medicine, and so on to help diagnosis a stallion if it has something wrong more than what I can find," Dr. Tibary said.

"The unfortunate thing about stallion fertility is that treatments are seldom successful, particularly when it comes to testicular function," he said. "So you are left to work with semen of poor quality. This can be done if artificial insemination is a possibility because we can "clean" sperm through various techniques that allow us to concentrate and use only good sperm cells to inseminate a mare. Some of these stallions can achieve a decent pregnancy rate if they are managed correctly.

"The key to preventing infertility in a stallion is to have him routinely evaluated before and at the end of each breeding season so owners don't get surprised by a drop in fertility," Dr. Tibary said. "This is especially true if the stallion is of high value. If the stallion is not so valuable and has infertility possibly due to a congenital or genetic problem, then you do not want to use that stallion as he may pass on those traits genetically."

For more information about fertility issues, contact Dr. Tibary at tibary@vetmed.wsu.edu or 509-335-1963. To schedule a breeding soundness evaluation, contact the large animal appointment desk at the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital at 509-335-0718. 📞

WSU Veterinary College Adds Reproductive Medicine Teaching Facility

A new 10,000 square foot teaching barn is now complete at WSU and will house the College of Veterinary Medicine's breeding, reproductive research, and teaching program. "Here in the theriogenology facility, or reproductive medicine facility, we can now combine teaching and service on large animals including equine, bovine, and camelids," said **Dr. Ahmed Tibary**, chief of large animal theriogenology at WSU.

The facility is designed to offer a service area for stallions and more than two dozen mares that could eventually lead to advances in **semen preservation** and **embryo transfer**. For cattle, there is room for about 45 animals in a teaching herd. Separate sections will be used for housing camelids, and even sheep, with strict bio-security measures in place to keep university herds separate from client animals.

"All of the research being done is focusing on the same aspect across species," Dr. Tibary said. "The strength of focusing on multiple species is that you learn a lot faster. Our comparative approach to reproductive studies will allow for greater learning and adaptation of various techniques in large animal reproduction."

"The new facilities allow us the opportunity to redesign the program and position ourselves as a world-class facility for the study of reproductive problems," said **Dr. Richard DeBowes**, chair of the WSU Veterinary Clinical Science department. "The next step is to find partners who can assist us in acquiring the specialty equipment necessary to make this goal a reality."

While this new facility opens the doors to an entire host of new reproductive research possibilities, its primary function will be for teaching and the management of complex reproductive medical cases presented to the WSU Veterinary Hospital. "The real winners in this are WSU veterinary students who will see firsthand the various techniques in applied reproduction and reproductive behavior. We can even envision the possibility of international courses for some of the reproductive techniques," Dr. Tibary said. "Like everything we do, the know-how exists, but it is very challenging to do it in a professional manner if you don't have the proper facility." 🍎



WSU's new reproductive medicine teaching facility in Pullman.



View of the recently completed equine research barn at WSU.

New Equine Research Barn at WSU

Construction is completed on a new equine research barn that is home to one of the most important herd of horses in the world. Since the mid-1970s, WSU's College of Veterinary Medicine has been the home of an Arabian horse herd at the center of critical research into equine infectious diseases.

"This new research barn is a significant upgrade over our old facility," said **Dr. Robert Mealey**, who heads up the research project. "This new facility is safer, cleaner, and better designed specifically for work, while allowing for the possibility of expanded research."

The herd has been critical to several important discoveries for horses, such as the never-before-discovered disease in Arabian horses called severe combined immunodeficiency (CID). In CID, the horse has no lymphocytes and, therefore, no antibody production, leading to potentially fatal infections. This discovery at WSU in the 1970s led to a dramatic increase in the survival rate of young foals who received very low levels of immunoglobulins, or proteins that play an important role in the immune response, from their mothers.

But perhaps the most exciting discoveries are just on the horizon. The herd has been used to study an exciting new vaccine that stimulates what is commonly referred to as "killer T-cells." These cells recognize and kill other cells in the body infected with foreign proteins, such as viruses. In a recent test, five out of the five Arabian horses that received the vaccine have responded by producing killer T-cells.

"This is the first time we have been able to consistently induce the production of killer T-cells," said Dr. Mealey. "Our EIAV vaccine (equine immunodeficiency virus) is designed to stimulate the killer T-cell response against these viral proteins, and if it works, we should be able to vaccinate and protect a diverse population of horses."

The work has attracted interest from the National Institutes of Health after studies in both animals and humans have been shown to control such aggressive viruses as HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). 🍎



A second view of the WSU equine research barn.

Your WSU College of Veterinary Medicine Equine Team

The WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital could not operate without the cooperation and dedication of its veterinarians, technicians, and other support personnel. Your WSU equine team strives to provide every client with the best possible medical care for his or her horse. Below is a chance to get to know some of these people before you visit the hospital with your horse!

EQUINE FACULTY

The **Equine Medicine team** provides an array of services for the diagnosis and treatment of a wide variety of horse diseases, including heart and lung disorders, colic, diarrhea, neurological diseases, neonatal intensive care, and infectious diseases. Our senior faculty members, **Drs. Melissa Hines** and **Debra Sellon**, are board-certified in large animal internal medicine by the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine (ACVIM).

The **Equine Surgery team** is renowned for their expertise in lameness evaluation and laparoscopic surgery. They provide a comprehensive array of surgical procedures for many conditions including fracture repair, arthroscopic surgery, colic, urinary bladder disorders, upper respiratory abnormalities, and ovariectomies to name just a few. Team members also perform high-speed treadmill testing. **Drs. Claude Ragle**, **Kelly Farnsworth**, and **Bob Schneider** are board certified by the American College of Veterinary Surgeons. Another key board-certified member of the surgery team, **Dr. Julie Cary**, is head of our emergency services at WSU.

The **Equine Theriogenology** or reproduction service is lead by **Dr. Ahmed Tibary**, our board certified and internationally renowned large animal theriogenologist. Dr. Tibary provides a diverse range of services for horse owners including breeding soundness evaluations of stallions and mares, pregnancy and fetal well-being evaluations, semen collection and freezing, embryo transfers, and artificial insemination with fresh-cooled or frozen semen.



Dr. Claude Ragle, DVM, Diplomate ACVS, Diplomat ABVP (equine practice) Associate Professor of Equine Surgery Specializes in **minimal invasive surgery, laparoscopy, respiratory surgery, and gastrointestinal surgery** Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 1992

509-335-0822, ragle@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Julie Cary, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVS Clinical Instructor of Equine Surgery and Emergency Care Specializes in **equine emergency medicine and surgery** Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 2005

509-335-3079, jcary@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Kelly Farnsworth, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVS Clinical Assistant Professor of Large Animal Surgery Specializes in **minimal invasive surgery, laparoscopy, and lower limb lameness** Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 2002

509-335-0724, farns005@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Ahmed Tibary, DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate of the American College of Theriogenologists Associate Professor of Theriogenology Specializes in **large animal reproduction** Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 2000

509-335-1963, tibary@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Melissa Hines, DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate ACVIM

Associate Professor and **Chief of the Equine Medicine Service** Specializes in **immunology, infectious diseases, neonatology, and exercise physiology**

Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 1989

509-335-0765, mth@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Debra Sellon, DVM, Ph.D., Diplomate ACVIM

Associate Professor of Equine Medicine Specializes in **infectious diseases, hematology, and pain management** Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 1997

509-335-0733, dsellon@vetmed.wsu.edu



Dr. Robert Schneider, DVM, M.S., Diplomate ACVS

Professor and **Chief of Large Animal Surgery** Specializes in **equine orthopedic surgery** Member of the WSU veterinary faculty since 1992

509-335-0791, rks@vetmed.wsu.edu

WSU EQUINE VETERINARY TECHNICIANS

Our registered veterinary technicians are the “nursing” staff of WSU’s Veterinary Teaching Hospital. They play a vital role in patient diagnostics and care, as well as in the education of veterinary students. Their dedication and caring is evident with every patient they assist.

Janel Holden and **Lethea Hunter** work primarily with the equine surgery service. Besides surgery, they frequently help with the evaluation and treatment of horses with lameness problems. Janel also helps with large animal imaging. **Molly Loaliza** has been a technician at the Veterinary Teaching Hospital for more than 20 years. She



Equine Veterinary Technicians (left to right): assistants Molly Bellefeuille and Rachel Jones, technicians Teri Olson, Lethea Hunter, Janel Holden, Molly Loaliza, and patient services representative Lynette Kinzer.

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Information about the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital

APPOINTMENTS AND HOURS

Equine appointments can be made at the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital by calling 509-335-0711. No referral is necessary.

- *Equine Medicine* appointments are scheduled on an individual basis.
- *Equine Surgery* consultation appointments are scheduled for Mondays and Wednesdays to allow for subsequent surgeries to be performed on Tuesdays and Thursdays.
- *Equine Theriogenology* appointments are scheduled on an individual basis at a time most convenient for both the animal owner and the clinician.

Appointments may be scheduled directly by individual service areas. A 24-hour emergency service is also available for both small and large animals. Please call 509-335-0711 if you are bringing in an animal as an emergency so our veterinarians can prepare for your arrival.

WHAT TO EXPECT

A trip to the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital is not like a trip to most veterinary practices. Upon arrival, clients register at the Admissions Desk. A senior veterinary student, or in some cases an intern or resident, obtains a complete medical history from the owner or caretaker and performs an initial physical examination. More than one graduate veterinarian will likely examine your horse while it is at WSU. Most of the equine services at WSU function in a team configuration with a senior clinician, intern, and resident—all veterinarians present—so examinations and treatments generally take more time than they would in the private sector. Since WSU is also home to the some of the world's best equipment, most notably medical imaging, there are often delays due to previous scheduling of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures. As with any medical facility, horses with true medical and surgical emergencies take priority over regularly scheduled appointments. In most cases, the hospital staff can give a reasonably accurate estimate of the approximate time necessary to adequately evaluate your horse and provide service. Because teaching is an integral part of the services we

provide, most people accept some delays in order to obtain the most thorough and comprehensive examination for their horses that is available anywhere in the world.

Owners are allowed to stay with their horses during most initial examinations and some diagnostic procedures. However, there are some procedures, such as radiographs, nuclear scintigraphy, and surgery, where owners are not permitted because of safety, sterility, or infection control concerns.

Daily visitation is allowed for hospitalized horses, but the timing and length of the stay may be limited and should be scheduled with the attending clinician. In some instances in which a horse is in intensive care or an isolation unit, owners are not allowed to visit except with special arrangements through the hospital staff for the same reasons noted above. All visitors need to check in at the front desk at the time of arrival.

PAYMENT POLICY

Fees are charged for all services provided by the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital in a similar fashion to that of a private veterinary practice. Payment is expected, in full, at the time of service. For patients treated as outpatients, the clinician will advise the owner of costs that will be incurred before service is provided, with payment expected upon completion of the visit.

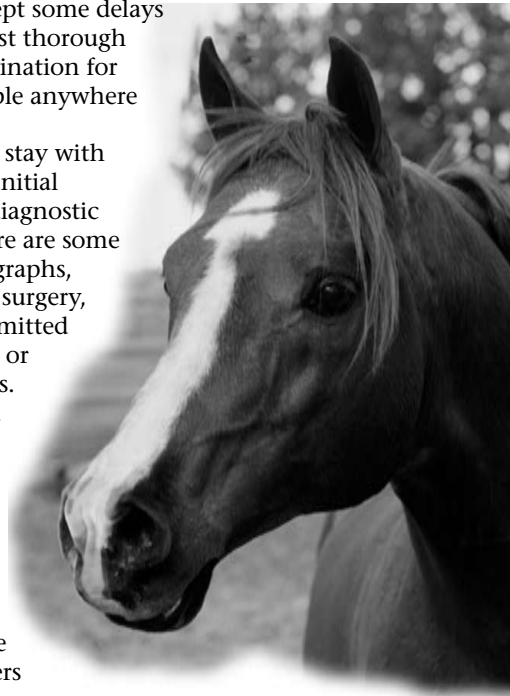
Clients with hospitalized animals will be given an estimate for the cost of treatment. For these inpatients (surgeries/ICU/extensive diagnostics), one-half of the high end of the estimate is requested at the time of admission. The remainder of the bill is due at the time of discharge. Acceptable forms of payment include cash, check, or credit cards. If a client is unable to pay under these guidelines, a credit report must be obtained and contractual arrangements for payment should be made with the business office prior to beginning the procedure. On a very limited basis, funds are available for ownerless animals or owners with special circumstances.

MAPS TO WSU

Maps to the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine can be found at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/maps.

Routes can be found from southern Idaho through Lewiston, Idaho; from Montana or northern Idaho through Coeur d' Alene, Idaho; from Portland, Oregon; from the Seattle area through Colfax, Washington; and from Canada or northern Washington through Spokane, Washington.

Washington State University campus maps can be found at www.wsu.edu/campusmap.



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TRANSPORTATION AND THE HORSE VAN

Horse owners often choose to bring their horse to the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital themselves. But for convenience, WSU also offers a horse van service that transports horses to and from western Washington to the Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Pullman on a weekly or bi-weekly basis. The main pick-up point for horses west of the Cascade Mountains is at Donida Farms, with directions posted on the WSU Equine Web site at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-equine/directions.asp. For more information about this transportation option, contact the Veterinary Teaching Hospital at 509-335-0711.

PARKING

Space for short and long-term parking is available at the hospital for all sizes of horse trailers and vans. Agricultural animal and equine owners may pull their trailers through the security gate to park on the east side of the hospital. If parking for several hours, clients will be directed to a "longer term" lot. For those with RVs, parking is not allowed overnight, but the receptionist in the front lobby can recommend an appropriate place to park on campus.

Those having business with the Veterinary Teaching Hospital can park in the lot directly in front of the main entrance. Clients must sign in at the reception desk during regular business hours when parking in this lot.

SELF-REFERRALS OR VETERINARIAN REFERRALS

Owners may seek treatment for their own horses without a referral. If a private veterinary practitioner refers a client, he or she should call WSU and speak to the accepting service regarding their client's physical condition, where the client is coming from, anticipated arrival time if an emergency, and any other information pertinent to the client. If the case is not an emergency, the accepting veterinarian may transfer the caller to make an appointment.

We welcome referrals from our colleagues in private practice for a variety of reasons, but most importantly because it is an invaluable part of our professional veterinary education program. Referring practitioners are encouraged to keep updated on the progress of the animals they refer to our hospital. 📍

primarily works with the equine medicine service. **Chad Whetzel** is our newest equine technician who helps the equine surgery service. **Shirley Sandoval** (not pictured) provides primary support for large animal and equine theriogenology. **Teri Olson** is a licensed veterinary technician with advanced training in equine dentistry. She also helps the Equine Surgery service, and is an invaluable aid in evaluation and treatment of a variety of dental disorders in horses.



Equine Support Staff (left to right): Bob Parkins, Mike Carpenter, Rick Fredrickson, and equine veterinary technician Chad Whetzel.

WSU EQUINE SUPPORT STAFF

Many other individuals provide critical assistance in the day-to-day operations of the equine hospital. It is difficult to include everyone involved with the care and treatment of equine patients, but you may meet a few of these people.

Lynette Kinzer is our patient services representative at the large animal appointment desk, and the person you are most likely to talk to on the phone. Lynette helps clients make appointments, answers questions, arranges transportation to the hospital, and is a liaison between our doctors and clients.

Bob Parkins, Mike Carpenter, Rick Fredrickson, Jim Hicks (not pictured), and **Dan Hopkins** (not pictured) are our full-time large animal care staff. They clean and maintain the stalls for patient care during hospitalization, maintain our paddocks, and work with the animals. Rick Fredrickson is also the person who drives the shuttle van for equine patients traveling between Pullman and western Washington. 📍

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT OUR EQUINE CLINICAL SERVICES, RESEARCH, AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS?

See our equine Web site at

www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-equine

or the WSU Veterinary Teaching Hospital Web site at

www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-vth/equineServices.asp

Also feel free to call 509-335-0711 for **equine appointments** or **emergency care**.

WSU Veterinary

TEACHING HOSPITAL SWITCHBOARD

Main Hospital Switchboard and Emergencies: ..	509-335-0711
Equine Appointments.....	509-335-0711
Agricultural Animal Appointments	
(Non-Theriogenology)	509-335-5377
Theriogenology (Equine and Ag Animal)	509-335-0741
Small Animal Appointments	509-335-0751 / 509-335-0752
Dean's Office	509-335-9515
Department Chair	509-335-0738
VTH Fax Number	509-335-3330
Billing	509-335-0816
Pharmacy	509-335-0736
Pet Partnership Program	509-335-4569
Pet Loss Hotline	509-335-5704



Second Annual Ride for Research Event near Olympia

The Washington State Horse Council and member organizations are hosting the second annual Ride for Research event to benefit the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine's equine research programs.


The benefit will take place Friday through Sunday, **August 4-6, 2006**, at the Evergreen Sportsmen's Club near Littlerock, Washington, in close proximity to Olympia. Events include a prize ride beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday, followed by an evening auction and barbeque dinner, and an open ride on Sunday. Entry fees for the prize ride are \$20 for adults and \$15 for youths. Additional tickets for the ride cost \$5, and camping is free. Last year the top prizes included saddles, bridles, saddle blankets, and veterinary services.

Other supporting organizations for the event include Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Washington State Horsemen, Woodbrook Hunt Club, and the John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders.

The WSU College of Veterinary Medicine leads in many areas of equine research, including **sports medicine, pain management, joint disease, and new techniques in laparoscopic surgery**. Additional work is also being pursued on **equine digestive and infectious diseases**, as well as the

immune responses of horses and foals to disease. The college has also recently added an **equine research barn** that is critical for research into equine infectious diseases, as well as a **large animal reproductive teaching barn** that will house the college's breeding, reproductive research, and teaching program.

The WSU College of Veterinary Medicine is staffed with many outstanding equine clinicians and research authorities. It is one of the only veterinary colleges in North America currently equipped with **magnetic resonance imaging equipment** capable of evaluating lameness and neurological disorders in horses. WSU's Veterinary Teaching Hospital also features a **linear accelerator**, one of the most advanced machines in the world dedicated to cancer treatment in animals. While most commonly used for dogs and cats, it has recently been used to treat cancer in a horse. Other sophisticated diagnostic and treatment technologies are available as well, including **CT scan, ultrasound, endoscopy, and arthroscopy**.

For more information about the event and directions, contact the Washington State Horse Council at 360-352-5883. For those who cannot attend, but are interested in supporting the equine research programs at the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine, contact Lynne Haley at 509-335-5021 or lhaley@vetmed.wsu.edu. 

Equine News at the Speed of Light!

Beginning January 1, 2007, WSU *Equine News* will be available to our readers via e-mail. Instead of waiting for a hard copy in the mail, the newsletter will arrive in your e-mail inbox as a Web link to the WSU *Equine News* Web site to peruse at your convenience.

In it, you will be able to find out what is new with the WSU Equine Team, the latest in equine research, health issues, hospital services and activities regarding our college, and horse health throughout the Pacific Northwest. You can also meet our faculty doctors, residents, interns, staff, and members of the WSU Equine Advisory Board, learn about upcoming events at the college, and keep track of critical contact information for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital and college Web site. Online, the newsletter also offers the advantages of Internet hotlinks directly to the people and programs you read about.

The newsletter is published quarterly and is sent to teaching hospital clients, referring veterinarians, equine industry people, and horse lovers in general.

If you would like to keep receiving the newsletter electronically for free, simply go online to the WSU College of Veterinary Web site at www.vetmed.wsu.edu/depts-vth/EquineNews/index.asp and enroll. Previous issues of *Equine News* can also be found there. Those who prefer a hard copy of the newsletter can subscribe for a \$25 annual fee to receive four quarterly issues by U.S. Mail. To request a hard copy, you can mail this slip to the address below, call 509-335-3100, or go to the WSU veterinary Web site link above.

Hard copy mailings to non-subscribers will cease on January 1, 2007, so be sure to reply soon.

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- I would like to receive WSU *Equine News* for free via e-mail and have included my e-mail address above.
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- I would like to make a donation to the WSU College of Veterinary Medicine to support important equine services and research being performed to improve equine health everywhere. Enclosed is my check, made payable to Washington State University Foundation.

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