



Southern Equine Service

Southern Equine Service Newsletter

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Managing Horses in the Heat

With temperatures spiking into the 100's, proper management for your horse(s) is crucial to their health and well-being. First and foremost, provide adequate shelter/shaded area and at least 15-20 gallons of fresh cool water per day and more if they are working hard.

Putting electrolytes in their daily feed rations and providing access to a salt block are great ways to ensure they will drink the amount of water they need. Feeding electrolytes in hot weather and when horses are working hard prevents things such as premature fatigue, muscle cramps, and colic.

Other risks for horses in the heat are heat exhaustion and heat stroke. Horses with heat exhaustion will show signs of weakness, stumbling, increased respiration, even after resting, and an increased temperature above 101.5 degrees. With heat stroke, symptoms are more severe and dangerous. The horse's body temperature will remain above 106 degrees, and typically, they stop sweating. In cases of either heat stroke or heat exhaustion, a veterinarian needs to be called.

Deworming: A New Protocol

For decades we have all used the rotational deworming program with our horses. With the rapidly growing problem of parasite resistance to dewormers, our protocol has changed. By avoiding the frequent use of dewormers it is thought that parasite resistance will develop slower.

Our recommendation is to run a fecal exam every 4 months and only deworm as needed. We are offering fecal exams to all of our clients and if a dewormer is needed, it is included in the price of the fecal exam. If you are interested in having a fecal exam performed, just drop off a small fresh sample at the office.

Signs your horse may have parasites include: dull hair coat, weight loss, tail rubbing, colic, depression, lethargy, or loss of appetite.

Welcome Dr. Kate Echeverria

Dr. Echeverria grew up in Greenfield, MA and began riding jumpers and event horses at an early age. She started coming to train and compete in Aiken during the winter in 1997.

Dr. Echeverria graduated from Wake Forest University with a degree in Psychology. After graduation she spent 2 years as a working student for Apple Knoll Farm and wintered in Aiken. She then attended and graduated from North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine and accepted the internship position here at Southern Equine Service. Her primary interests are in sports medicine and podiatry.