

Equine Newsletter

VSMT Promo, Free PPID Testing,
& Vetera Boosters



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Lots of News to Share

Autumn is really upon us now, and the leaves have given us a beautiful show for the Thanksgiving weekend. We hope you had some time to enjoy the perfect weather we've had the past few days. This newsletter is full of promos and information, including only 2 weeks left for our VSMT Promo, PPID (Equine Cushing's Disease) and the opportunity for a free test before Oct 31st, and an explanation of how the Vetera vaccine boosters support your horses' health. If you have any questions about these topics, don't hesitate to call the office. .

**Laminitis.
Hay belly.
Shaggy coat.**

Can you ID the signs of PPID?



From September 1 to October 31, 2020, Boehringer Ingelheim is offering free PPID tests* to eligible horses. Fill in the eligibility form at the end of the PPID quiz, and we will contact you if your horse meets the criteria for the free test.*

**Your horse may
be eligible for a
free test.***

Take the quiz

**Early diagnosis and treatment may
improve the quality of life of horses
living with PPID.**

bicanadaequine.ca/ppid#quiz

Formerly known as Cushing's disease, PPID is one of the most common endocrine (hormonal) disorders in horses.



More than 50% of horses with PPID have laminitis¹

Laminitis is the inflammation of sensitive layers of tissue inside the hoof. It is extremely painful and debilitating. Laminitis is considered both an early *and* an advanced sign of PPID.

More about laminitis

PPID: pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction

*All lab fees will be covered by Boehringer Ingelheim; however, any veterinary service consultation or other fees are the sole responsibility of the horse owner and are not included in this offer. While supplies last.

1. Schott HC. Pituitary pars intermedia dysfunction: equine Cushing's disease. *Vet Clin North Am Equine Pract.* 2002;18(2):237-270.

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What is Vetera 2XP and Why Does My Horse Need a Booster?

If your horse receives either the Vetera Gold XP or the Vetera 5XP vaccines in the spring you will soon be receiving a reminder for a Vetera 2XP vaccination. We have been contacted by several clients with questions regarding this vaccine. As such we thought it would be helpful to provide the information to all of our clients.

Vetera Gold XP, Vetera 5XP and Vetera 2XP are combination vaccines that vaccinate horses against more than one disease. You can see what is in each vaccine below:

<u>Vetera Gold XP</u>	<u>Vetera 5XP</u>	<u>Vetera 2XP</u>
Tetanus	Tetanus	
Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus	Eastern Equine Encephalitis Virus	
Western Equine Encephalitis Virus	Western Equine Encephalitis Virus	
West Nile Virus		
Equine Influenza Virus	Equine Influenza Virus	Equine Influenza Virus
Equine Herpes Virus	Equine Herpes Virus	Equine Herpes Virus

If your horse is vaccinated regularly with Vetera EWT/WNV, Vetera Gold XP, or Vetera 5XP then the immunity against tetanus, EEE, WEE and WNV will last for at least 12 months. This is why we recommend that horses receive these vaccines annually. However the protection against Equine Influenza Virus only lasts for about 6 months. This is where the recommendation for a Vetera 2XP vaccination comes from.

If you opt to not give your horse this Vetera 2XP vaccination then there is likely to be a 6 month period where your horse does not have adequate immunity for Equine Influenza Virus every year.



Some clients intentionally set up their vaccination schedule such that their horses will have immunity for Equine Influenza Virus during a higher risk period (when they are showing) and then limited immunity for the remaining 6 months of the year. Other horses will have a 12 month risk period because they travel to clinics throughout the winter or they live in a barn with a high turnover rate.

There isn't a one size fits all approach to vaccination so we want to ensure that our clients have the tools to make an informed decision for their horse. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact the office.

Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Therapy (VSMT) Promo Ends Oct 31st

Dr. Rainee Stoddart is certified in Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Therapy (VSMT), a certification that involves over 200 hours of training at the Veterinary Chiropractic Learning Center. You may be more familiar with the term Equine Chiropractic, but what veterinarians can do with their specialized knowledge is more correctly known as VSMT.

Until October 31st, we are offering 10% off both the adjustment and the call fee.



How is my horse's back important to their performance?

Dr Raine Stoddart: When many clients think about joints, structures like hocks or stifles come to mind. These are obviously very important joints and when they become diseased it can have a large impact on our horse's health. Equally as important as the joints in our horse's limbs are the joints in their back. We tend to think of the back as this rigid structure that has little motion. Many of us spend a lot of time sitting on it! But in reality the equine spine is extremely mobile. It is made up of, on average, 54 different bones. Each of these vertebrae has multiple joints that connect them to the bones adjacent to them. Each vertebra is capable of movement in three directions.

- Up and down flexion & extension
- Bending side to side
- Rotation along the axis of the spine

How can back pain affect my horse?

Dr Raine Stoddart: Many of us are aware of the widespread effect a sore back can have. You tense up all your muscles trying to hold the sore part still, and sometimes you change the way you bend over or even walk. Some people are acutely aware of the close relationship our spine has with our nervous system. A joint with an abnormal range of motion in just the wrong spot can send an electric shock of pain down your entire leg. These same fundamentals apply to our horses, likely to an even greater extent as they often have to cope with carrying someone on their back.

What can VSMT do for my horse?

Dr Raine Stoddart: The fundamental goal of VSMT is to restore joints to a state where they have a pain-free full range of motion. Adjusting these



restricted joints can help to break up adhesions forming between the soft tissue structures surrounding the joint, improve joint mobility and even re-establish a normal pattern of neurologic activity in the nerves adjacent to that joint.

Which horses can benefit from VSMT?

Dr Raine Stoddart: The benefits of VSMT are not limited to one category of horse. I have seen beneficial effects in a wide variety of patients. I have treated competition horses that were more willing and able to do their job following an adjustment. I also have seen benefits in older, retired horses who are coping with other diseases like arthritis where VSMT is used in conjunction with other therapies to improve their quality of life.

What do a veterinarian's particular skills and training add to a spinal adjustment?

Dr Raine Stoddart: I think that spinal manipulation therapy can pair very successfully with 'traditional' veterinary medicine. In a significant number of cases where I am booked for VSMT, it turns out that the horse has a previously undiagnosed underlying musculoskeletal disease that is contributing to the

clinical signs the client is seeing. It's not that these horses wouldn't benefit from VSMT, in most cases they would; however, VSMT alone may not be an appropriate treatment plan for cervical arthritis or a fractured navicular bone (both real life examples that I have seen more than once). As a veterinarian I am able to bring my knowledge of these other conditions to the appointment and change course to investigate these other avenues if the situation calls for it.

