

The Equine Clinic at OakenCroft

Winter Newsletter 2018



OakenCroft Is Growing

ECO has always been committed to the support and education of veterinary students and new graduates. Since 2002 OakenCroft has supported a newly graduated veterinarian for a one year internship. This year is an intense and priceless time of learning and mentorship. As you may know, Dr. Grant and Dr. Safford were both once interns at OakenCroft and many of our other vets completed internships at other great practices.

Our diverse client base is instrumental in helping to support and educate our interns. This offers our intern(s) exposure to many different management techniques and equine disciplines.

Beginning in 2018 OakenCroft will have two interns for the first time. This will allow for more in depth and balanced management of routine care cases, emergencies and hospital cases while providing mentorship to two interns.

In June we will welcome Chris White and Allie Catalino to the practice. They both come to us from the Atlantic Veterinary College, Prince Edward Island Nova Scotia. Chris is originally from Maine and Allie from upstate New York. Our interns are dedicated, hardworking and the

opportunity to have double the enthusiasm is an exciting time for the practice.

Dentistry

Most people go see their dentist once or twice a year and understand the importance of having a qualified/licensed professional examine their mouths for any abnormalities such as cavities, receding gums, broken and loose teeth, etc. That same concept applies to your horse, mule, or donkey. Your horse should have regular (every 6-12 months) thorough examinations done by a qualified professional. This exam includes a comprehensive history pertaining to their eating habits and their performance under saddle, such as head-tossing, lameness, and aversion to the bit. In addition to the history, the examination includes an inspection of the shape and symmetry of your horse's head, the quality of your horse's manure, and observation of your horse eating grain and hay. Beyond that your veterinarian will check your horse's jaws range of motion, alignment of upper and lower incisors and cheek teeth, wear of those teeth, mucous membrane appearance, tongue tone and appearance, soft and hard palate appearance, presence of extra teeth, caps, or wolf teeth, as well as the presence of abnormalities such as reduced crown, pockets, packed feed, loose teeth, caries (think of them like cavities), as well as the more routine hooks, ramps, waves, and sharp enamel points.

Without regular thorough examination by a qualified professional, signs of dental disease are often missed in horse until the disease process is well-advanced. The classic casual oral exam where you grab the horse's tongue and peek in their mouth using sunlight is not an

appropriate exam and lacks the standard of care that we at OakenCroft strive for. Although this exam may allow you to tell if the horse has sharp enamel points, you miss a multitude of possible ailments by not following through with a more thorough exam using a bright light, mirror, dental picks and probes, a full mouth speculum, and mild, standing sedation. Without sedation, this type of thorough exam is impossible due to safety concerns for everyone involved (including the horse).

With advances in digital technology these past fifteen years, the paradigm is shifting again to involve radiographs and endoscopy as a routine part of this thorough examination. Think about it, if you go to your dentist routinely, they suggest radiographs for most adults at least once a year to find abnormalities within the tooth that are otherwise missed. Radiographs are also strongly recommended to help facilitate in extractions-both in making sure we remove the correct tooth as well as making sure there isn't a secondary health concern. And, our mouths are much smaller than the horse's! Furthermore, based on the horse's anatomy, their last molars are oftentimes elbow deep and nearly impossible to visualize adequately without the aid of some basic equipment. Radiographs allow us to visualize the interior aspect of each tooth, the roots of the teeth, the sinuses and nasal passages, as well as the alignment of the teeth in relation to their neighboring teeth. Intra-oral endoscopy has also given us an advantage in visualizing the horse's mouth. Up until a couple years ago, we were only able to palpate the cheek-side and back edge of the molars looking for abnormalities. With the acquisition of our oral endoscope, we've been able to improve our examination skills and can now see that troublesome area. This aids us greatly in helping diagnose abnormalities that may otherwise have been missed.

In recent years, ECO has made a large investment in improving both our dental equipment and expertise in

equine dentistry. We now have an expanded selection of floats (power, manual, and miniature), examination tools (mirrors, picks, and probes), and extraction tools to be used to offer our clients more comprehensive care for their horses. We are very happy to be offering these services to you for your horse so that we can continue a long-lasting relationship and keep your horse happy and healthy for as long as possible. We look forward to discussing all this with you, so please call today and schedule an appointment for this spring.

Sports Medicine

The Equine Clinic at OakenCroft offers comprehensive equine sports medicine services to patients of every discipline. Our equine athletes undergo rigorous athletic endeavors and require comprehensive maintenance plans to allow them to compete at the highest levels. ECO offers years of experience in all aspects of sports medicine including lameness diagnosis, state of the art diagnostic modalities, traditional and biologic therapies and complementary therapies. Diagnostics available at The Equine Clinic at OakenCroft include: Portable Digital Radiography, Digital Ultrasonography, Thermography, Digital Endoscopy and Gastroscopy.

Therapies available at The Equine Clinic at OakenCroft include:

1. Chiropractic and Acupuncture Services: ECO has three licensed veterinarians in spinal manipulation and two licensed veterinarians in acupuncture.

2017 Highlights

2. Traditional orthopedic therapies including intraarticular treatment, podiatry consultation and rehabilitation services

3. Regenerative Therapies including:

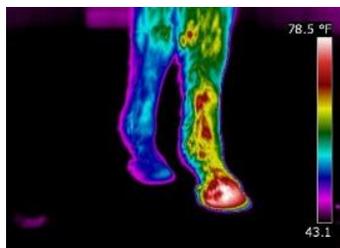
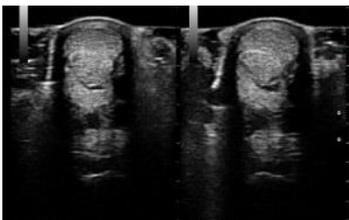
PRP: Platelets are found in blood and contain hundreds of proteins called growth factors which are very important in the healing of injuries, including tendon, ligament, joint injury and osteoarthritis.

IRAP: A protein that is found in blood that blocks the attachment of IL-1 that is a cause of cartilage degradation, osteoarthritis and degenerative joint disease.

Pro-Stride™: *Pro-Stride APS* is a proprietary system whose output produces a concentrated solution of cells, platelets, growth factors, and anti-inflammatory proteins (including IL-1ra). This system combines the benefits of PRP and IRAP. This is used to treat osteoarthritis and degenerative joint disease.

4. **Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy:**

high magnitude shock waves are directed at specific tissues to reduce inflammation, break up scar tissue and enhance healing.



- Dr. Jones did several lectures at Equine Affair and organized a booth for us in the trade fair.
- Drs. Safford and Colarusso attended AAEP for a 3-day course on Dentistry in Lexington KY.
- ECO, Rhinebeck, and Millbrook Equine, co-sponsored a Veterinary Student Weekend in September. We hosted an enthusiastic group of 40+ 2nd and 3rd year veterinary students for a hands-on weekend of activities. 2018 will find us hosting this meeting again with more of an international flavor as more Canadian schools and the Netherlands will be represented.
- Drs. McDonald, Grant and Penno participated in a variety of business management meetings. These were all aimed at improving our abilities improve our services to the client.
- Dr. McDonald attended the New England Equine Practitioners meeting where she got the latest information in treating lameness and medical problems.
- Drs. Penno, Jones, Grant and Naile attended the national convention of the American Association of Equine Practitioners.
- Drs. Penno and Naile both have served AAEP in 2017 and will continue in 2018. Dr Penno is moderator of “Business Rounds”, an online resource for AAEP members to discuss business issues in equine practice. Dr. Naile is moderator of “Podiatry Rounds”, an on-line resource for equine veterinarians dealing with issues of the equine foot.
- Dr. Naile presented “Essentials of Equine Podiatry” at the University Of Missouri College Of Veterinary Medicine.

Mark Your Calendars!

- **Northeastern Student Avenues Weekend**
September 15 & 16, 2018
- **The Castration Project**
October 5, 2018
Applications open August 1, 2018



Check our website and/or Facebook frequently for the most up-to-date details on each event. We ask that you please register beforehand so we can plan attendance and refreshments accordingly. You may do so by calling the office at **518-767-2906** or through email at equineclinic@oakencroft.org.

The Equine Clinic at Oakencroft

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Please update ECO with your contact information to ensure prompt & paperless communication, updates, and coupons!

Microchips Required by USEF & USHJA

What is a microchip? Small electronic chip about the size of a grain of rice encoded with a specific number that can be used to identify your horse. The chip is implanted in your horse's neck with minimal sedation and a local anesthetic block. A hand-held scanner can be used to read the chip.

Why microchip your horse? The chip number can be used to identify your horses if you are ever separated from them in the case of a natural disaster, crime, or accident. It also can be used during purchase of a horse to ensure proper identification.

The Rules. Horses showing in a USEF or USHJA licensed event will be required to have a microchip. Beginning December 1, 2017, all horses competing in USEF or USHJA need to be microchipped in order to collect points. As of December 1, 2018 any horse competing in a USEF or USHJA event will be required to have a microchip. Horses will be subject to scanning at any time at a show.

How do I get my horse microchipped? Microchips can be implanted by your veterinarian with a local anesthetic block and mild sedative.

The owner/trainer is responsible for purchasing the microchip. Microchips must be ISO 11784/11785 compliant. Your microchip cannot begin with #900 prefix. Once you have your microchip implanted, you may go online to update your horse's info on the USEF website or email horseservices@usef.org or fax to 859-231-6662 the Microchip Reporting form, which may be used to report multiple horses. Examples of some microchip brands are Datamars/PetLink, HomeAgain, AKC Reunite, AVID, and 24 PetWatch

