

BARROW VETERINARY
SERVICES, PC

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Office Hours:
Monday – Friday
8am – 5pm

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BVS Hoof Beats

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Going Somewhere? Need a Coggins?

Did you know that if you're travelling out of the state of Georgia, a health certificate is required? Officially titled a **Certificate of Veterinary Inspection**, a health certificate is a way to help prevent infectious diseases from crossing over state boundaries. One of our veterinarians will come out to your farm and perform a physical exam on your horse. She will then take the information from your negative Coggins test and add that to her exam information for the certificate.

If you are travelling, please notify us **at least a week in advance** so we can be sure all state requirements are met. You will need a current Coggins for all states, but some states require a Coggins in the calendar year, some within six months, and some require additional testing.

Speaking of a Coggins Test – What is it anyway?

A Coggins Test is a blood test that is performed to see if your horse has Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA). This disease is carried by biting flies and mosquitoes – it is picked up from one horse and transferred to the next in the saliva of the insect. This means it is not “contagious” per se, because horses don't spread it by contact with each other. Equids (horses, donkeys, mules) are the only animals that can be infected with this disease. Once infected, the horse can never be cured. The disease is rarely found in the US and this is mostly due to our rigorous testing each year to identify positive horses. One other note – If you are a registered stable in Georgia, the USDA may stop by for an inspection, which includes checking to see that your Coggins are current. Make sure you get your paperwork organized!

When to be Concerned: Equine Neglect



Disclaimer: This horse was just rescued and was about to start the rehabilitation process.

Hard times call for desperate measures. A horse is still an animal and deserves to be cared for. The Bay Area (California) Equestrian Network has recently published information and a video on how to document and report horse abuse.

See the video here:

<http://bayequest.info/2minvideo/85.htm?page=1>

For more information on the local Georgia Equine Rescue League (GERL), visit their web site:

<http://www.gerlltd.org/>



Holiday Hours:

We will be closing at noon on 12/23 and will remain closed through the Christmas weekend. Dr. Barrow will be available for emergencies.

The office will also be closed 12/31 through the weekend for the New Year Holiday. Dr. Thomas will be available for emergencies at that time.

Happy New Year!

'Tis' The Season For Eyes

With the start of the holiday season comes an increase in the number of eye problems that need to be addressed. The spike in eye problems this time of year has many precipitating causes. First is the change in our horse's environment. The raw, brutal cold and wind that we experience starting now and running thru March can be a large contributor to increasing inflammation of the eyes as well as stress to the defense mechanisms of the eye itself. Second, horse's meals change this time of year. Most of us have seen a field of our equine friends with heads buried deep in a new bale of hay. The mechanical injury to the eye in the form of scratches, cuts, and abrasions increase due to the increase of hay consumption. Third, just as the diet changes in the winter, so does the exposure to pathogens or diseases. The dry, windy conditions that we experience increase the number of air-borne bacteria and fungi ready to make homes in the recent cuts and abrasions of the environmentally stressed eyes of our equine friends.

So, what should concern you? If your horse experiences any swelling, draining, or squinting of the eye it is cause for concern. If your horse suddenly has a change in the color of the eye or the cornea (clear, outer layer of the eye) is no longer completely opaque and free of color it is cause for concern. Last but not least, if your horse suddenly begins to shy or be afraid or appears to be visually impaired it is cause for concern. BVS believes that all eye problems are emergencies and should be dealt with accordingly. Eyes can go from completely fine to lost in 24 hrs so don't delay in reporting a problem. It is always better to be safe than sorry!!!



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