

Northwood News.....

October

Can you all believe it? October is almost over and it is STILL short wearing weather. Whew! It is fall though and **it is NC** so the weather is subject to change. In this newsletter you will find information regarding those changes and how it affects your horse. Some of you have already noticed that Serenity is no longer residing with us. She was evaluated by two separate vets and two separate farriers and the prognosis was not a favorable one. Apparently the injury she sustained to her right front fore severed the tendon and nothing could be done to help her. She would be in varying degrees of pain and would only worsen with time. It was unanimously decided that the kindest thing to do for her was to let her go gently out of this world gently.

Nova is still recovering and is on stall rest for now. He has numerous abscesses that need to drain. His hooves are extremely brittle and his sole is what farriers call "false" as it is what nature does for protection. We are hopeful in getting him to Dr. Meeker's office as a case study subject.

Bendigo, our foster, is a dream horse. He appears to have no vices and has a sweet disposition. He has remained sound through several trail rides not even needing a wrap for soreness despite his old tendon injury. If you know of anyone that would like to adopt him his fee is set at **\$150.00.**

****Update: Bendigo has been adopted.**

Events

We have been going strong with all of the fall festivities. The Poker Ride benefiting the **HERO** organization was a success raising approximately \$1400.00. This is much needed money as hay is so expensive. When fostering a **HERO** horse, hay is given to the foster home to offset the expense. There are so many horses in need every little bit helps. Amber and I won the spectators costume contest! I was a Christmas tree and Amber was the present. She cautioned people all day long not to "shake her". The next big event for **HERO** sponsorship is being held at Ogburn Stables in King NC. It will be a **Fall Fun Show** with all of the proceeds going to **HERO**. If you would like to attend please let us know so that we can help arrange transportation.

Our next event here at Northwoods Stable is the annual "**Barn Decorating and Cleaning Party**" on November 24th. This year we have invited **HERO** participants to come and help us clean and decorate. Chicken Stew has won the vote as our main dish. I guess traditions are hard to break! Please **do** bring an appetizer and/or dessert to share. We will provide the Stew and drinks! Also, on that note, Randy let us use his cooker with stand last year. The big black pot made it home but the stand is missing. Has anyone seen it? The annual **Christmas Barn Party** will be held on December 15th. We realize that there will be many parties to attend this

year and hope that ours is one of them!

Education Corner

Cold and Colic

Colic is a general term which applies to two types of disruption of the horse's normal intestinal processes.

Depending on the cause of the colic, the horse may be experiencing a digestive spasm (temporary hyperactivity of the digestive tract) or his intestinal activity may be reduced.

Increased activity colic, or **hyper-peristalsis**, can be caused by excessive parasites (worms), eating moldy or spoiled hay, grain or forage, and in colic spasms in some mares can be triggered by heat cycles and pregnancies.

Decreased activity colic, or **hypo-peristalsis or a-peristalsis**, can be caused by excessive parasites (worms), excessive increase in grains (such as the horse getting into the grain barrel), sudden feed changes, feeding grain to an exhausted horse, allowing a very hot horse too much water, dental problems (improperly ground up feed) and ingestion of foreign bodies and materials (including dust and sand).

Then of course there are impactions and strangulations. These types of colic make up about 10% of the colic cases. So, why bring up the subject of Colic and what does it have to do with weather changes? Colic is responsible for more deaths than any disease group other than old age in the equine. Recent studies have not really

proved the change of weather as a direct factor.

(http://emc.vetmed.vt.edu/bios/white/Epidemiology_of_Colic.pdf)

Water intake however is a factor.

When the equine has a decreased water intake they are at more risk. Horses drink less water if the water is cold so in a sense weather does have something to do with colic. To make sure your horse is getting enough water when the weather is cold, consider buying apples to place in their stall buckets of water instead of the hand held sweet treats. Most of the horses will "bob-for-apples" and drink most of the water trying to eat the delectable treats! Table salt can also be added to your horse's daily ration of feed. This hopefully will cause them to be thirstier, thus making them want to drink more water. Lastly, when you are visiting your furry friend on the cold winter days add some warm water to their existing bucket of water to entice them to drink more.

To Blanket or Not to Blanket

Many people ask themselves whether they should blanket their horse or not. The answer depends. Humans take comfort in seeing their equine friend wrapped in something that looks warm and inviting. Truth is, nature has already provided a warm coat for them! Next time you look at your horse you will see the beginning of their winter wear. Each horse has a different coat. Not because of fashion taste but because of breed and or need. A couple types of hair grow: a fluffy undercoat that helps trap air next to the body and longer hairs that help to shed water from their backs. This winter growth of hair should help

your horse stay warm in most winter weather. Of course there are other factors to consider.

Consider the following:

- If your horse has been blanketed during the summer or fall the natural coat will be inhibited and he/she will need a blanket.
- If your horse is clipped he/she may need a blanket.
- If your horse has trouble maintaining weight or more so underweight when the cold weather arrives, they may need a blanket.

During the cold a large percentage of energy from food goes to keeping the body temperature up. Feeding more forage will help to keep the equine warm. On those cold winter days and nights we **always** feed extra hay to help keep the energy process up thus keeping the horses warmer. We have also installed new doors, front and rear, to keep the wind out of the barn. This cuts down on heat lost by convection. Last year, and the years past, we have offered a blanketing service free of charge. This year however, we can no longer offer that service free of charge. It is quite time consuming to place the blankets on and off each horse every day. So, if you feel that your horse must have a blanket, the fee will be \$3.00 a day. Of course you are always welcome to come and blanket your horse any time you feel that he/she needs one. Bottom line, if your horse feels moist and warm under the blanket, he/she

does not need one. If they look cold and uncomfortable, they do.

Deworming

Mark your records. Your horse will receive "Strongid" for the next deworming. It will be administered by the end of this month.

For Sale:

Wintec 2000 17" all purpose saddle. Leathers available. \$375.00 Contact Diane at: djdevine@bellsouth.net

HERO: Horse Education Rescue Organization

REINS: Regional Equine Information Network