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FOCUS on LYME DISEASE



Dr. Mark Jordan, DVM
Dr. Matthew Elliott, DVM
Dr. Jennifer Enger, DVM
Dr. Michelle Singer, VMD
Dr. Emily Harrison, DVM

Dr. Emily Harrison began seeing MHVP patients in July. Since she started we have received very positive feedback, from our clients, about her. We are sure that you will find her to be a very kind and compassionate veterinarian with an impressive knowledge of equine health. We are delighted to have her on our team, and we hope that you will give her a very warm welcome.

"A new baby is like the beginning of all things- wonder, hope, a dream of possibilities"
—Edo J. Le Shan

HELP !

Our vets have been receiving tons of client calls directly to their cell phones. It takes a great deal of their time answering these calls and reviewing voice mail messages. To help them have more time to be doctors and not secretaries **PLEASE** direct all calls to our office. The office will have medically urgent calls returned promptly by a veterinarian. Debbie, Alicia and Barbara are happy to help you with all of your questions and scheduling needs.

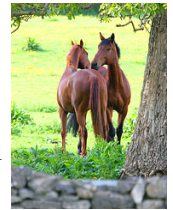


Lyme disease is an unfortunately common affliction of man and beast in the Northeast region. Although seemingly less common in the equine world, when compared to the human and canine, the Lyme disease organism (*Borrelia burgdorferi*) can cause a subtle array of symptoms. Although often mistakenly blamed for causing lameness, the organism may exacerbate an existing lameness problem (especially arthritis). It has also been associated with lethargy, overall stiffness, exaggerated tension “spookiness”, and hyperesthesia (hypersensitivity to touch). Many horses that have lived in the Northeast area their entire lives may benefit from a screening test once a year, even when no symptoms are evident.

Studies centered at Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine reveal that formulation of an adequate vaccine is difficult. Horses that have a measurable antibody level, and therefore have been exposed to the organism at some point, seem to respond only minimally to the vaccine. It seems that the best hope for vaccine protection is the vaccination of *naïve* horses only. (*Naïve* horses are those that have never been exposed, i.e. horses that have been imported into the northeast and foals).

With the removal of the human vaccine a few years ago, only the canine Lyme vaccine remains on the market now. Because the use of the canine vaccine in the horse world has shown no negative side effects, and reveals vaccine antibody (the horse’s response/recognition of the vaccine) on the Western Blot test, many veterinarians are now considering the use of this vaccine to help protect *naïve* horses.

Tick prevention methods in the horse world have been challenging as well. Good property management can be a huge help in decreasing tick populations. To help remove tick hiding places keep your fields mowed and free of tall paddock border weeds. Trim horses tails so they are off of the grass to prevent hitch-hiking parasites. Equi-Spot is a “spot-on” preparation to repel flies and ticks, but must be applied every two weeks and will be washed off by frequent bathing. Frontline spray applied to the horse weekly in the most tick-



These products are available from our office. Call for more information.



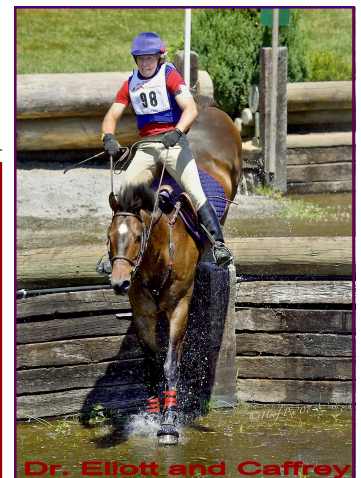
prone locations (under chin, down the neck, armpits, groin, and underside of tail) has had good results. Treatment of Lyme disease centers on the use of the tetracycline family of antibiotics. The 2 main protocols are intravenous oxytetracycline or oral doxycycline tablets; with the intravenous oxytetracycline showing the quickest and strongest response.

(845) 225-3100

Congratulations Dr. Elliott

As many of you already know Dr. Matt Elliott enjoys spending his weekends eventing. His commitment and training have really paid off big. Dr. Elliott has been invited to participate in the 2008 Wellpride American Eventing Championships to be held this September in Wayne, Illinois. He has qualified to compete at both the training and preliminary levels with two of his horses!

Way to Go Matt !



Dr. Elliott and Caffrey