

Health Check-up

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customers, and it takes strong medicine, administered with precision, to clean them out. A mild wormer or one added to the feed which the horse won't eat readily, isn't going to knock many worms. This is why, for the last 10 years, most veterinarians have relied on the tubing method, putting worm medication directly into the horse's stomach. Starving or withholding water is not required, so there's a minimum of stress. And veterinary medical literature shows there's no more effective way to worm a horse.

From tooth to toenail

Many horse-owners overlook their horse's teeth, simply because they're hard to check. But your veterinarian knows well that inadequate chewing, because of a bad tooth, can

lead to poor nutrition and digestive upsets. He'll see that your horse gets any needed dental care.

He'll check the heart, lungs and other vital organs. He'll look for signs of respiratory disease and anemia. He'll examine the genito-urinary system, and recommend treatment of any breeding problems. He'll check the skin, eyes, ears and mucous membrane - all of which may provide vital clues to your horse's physical well-being.

Another vital area he'll check out, and that's "action" - the reason you own a horse in the first place. You didn't buy a horse to look at - but to ride and use. That means making sure the feet, legs and joints are problem-free, and that the horse moves free and easy and sound.

The veterinarian will examine the feet, pasterns and hocks for heat, swelling

or soreness. He'll check whether hooves are properly angled and trimmed, and whether shoes are properly fitted. Then he'll put the horse through his paces to see that he moves smoothly and easily. Catching early symptoms of feet and leg problems can be very important to preventing serious lameness later.

Prevention is the key

The real key to any health program is prevention; so before your veterinarian is through he'll set up a complete vaccination schedule to meet your specific needs. You can't afford to take a single chance on any preventable disease, not when your veterinarian has effective vaccines that can so easily and safely protect your horse.

There are not only more horses today than anytime in recent years, but also far more horses are "on the move" than ever before. With more group events - shows, rodeos, parades, races, and trail-rides, the chances of catching a contagious disease are multiplied many times over. Based on your horse's health history, and your riding and traveling plans, your veterinarian will recommend "shots" as indicated for these major diseases:

Equine influenza (the cough) - Reports show more horses being hit with this highly contagious disease every year. It knows no age,

no area, no season. However, younger horses, or horses under stress at shows and races, seem to be particularly susceptible. There are two separate virus strains so the vaccine should contain protection against both.

Strangles (distemper) - Caused by Streptococcus equi, this highly debilitating disease is spread from horse to horse, or by feed boxes and waterers. Thus, when horses get together, the risk is high. Outbreaks are usually sudden and severe. If you plan to participate in any group event, tell your veterinarian so he can include strangles bacterin in your vaccination program.

Tetanus (lockjaw) - This is a constant threat to every horse. The causative organism, Clostridium tetani, is found everywhere. Any small wound or puncture that gets contaminated may result in a fatal infection. There's no known cure; recovery is nil. Since horses are accident prone, every horse should be vaccinated. Your veterinarian has available a highly purified tetanus toxoid with virtually no allergic or side reactions.

Encephalomyelitis (sleeping sickness). While horsemen have been well alerted to Venezuelan encephalomyelitis (VEE), too many are indifferent about Eastern and Western encephalomyelitis. Yet EEE and WEE are far more common. Year after year, they strike far more horses and people than the VEE panic of a few years ago. With today's high movement factor, practically no horse anywhere in the U.S. is safe from deadly Eastern or Western sleeping sickness. Your veterinarian has advanced new vaccines for EEE and WEE - including one combined with tetanus - which are given intramuscularly. These are far

Lancaster Farming, Saturday, Mar. 16, 1974-9

easier and more accurate to administer than older types which had to be given between layers of skin.

Rhinopneumonitis (contagious abortion). Most often found on breeding farms, this virus disease often causes mares to abort. If you've had this problem, be sure to discuss it with your veterinarian. Where the disease is actually diagnosed, there's an available vaccine which has proven highly effective when used in a supervised control program.

Non-specific infections. Horses are subject to many health problems caused by Staph., Strep., E. coli and Pasteurella organisms. These include metritis, cervicitis, mastitis, navel ill, diarrhea, pneumonia, septicemia, and others. If you've encountered any of these infections, your veterinarian may determine a special bacterin is indicated.

Don't wait until the week before a show or race. It takes six to eight weeks, in some cases, to develop full immunity after vaccination. And even if your horse has been vaccinated in previous months, it may be time for a booster. Most vaccines require booster shots at least yearly.

A regular check-up is vital to safeguarding your horse's strength, stamina and spirit. Don't be lulled into false

complacency because your horse "looks all right". Eyeballing alone is not enough. It takes a professional examination and know-how, backed up by the laboratory, to discover trouble in its early stages.

Now's the time to make sure your horse is ready to go. Ready to hit the trail with zest and vigor. Ready to do his utmost at showing, racing, working. Ready to make this riding season the time of your life! See your veterinarian right away for a Spring Check-up.

Farm Women Calendar

Tuesday, March 19

Farm Women Society 24 Rummage Sale at the Bareville Fire Hall.

Farm Women Society 27 will conduct the food stand at Christ Miller's Public Sale.

6:30 p.m. - Lancaster City and County Women's Republican Club covered dish supper, Millersville Fire Hall.

Friday, March 22

10:00 a.m. - Farm Women Society 27 appear on News and Views, WGAL-TV, Lancaster, "Noonday on 8". Mary Kathryn Wenger, hostess.

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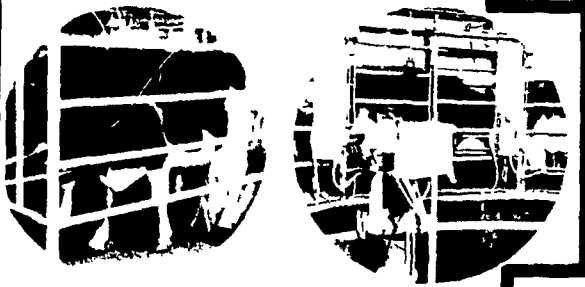
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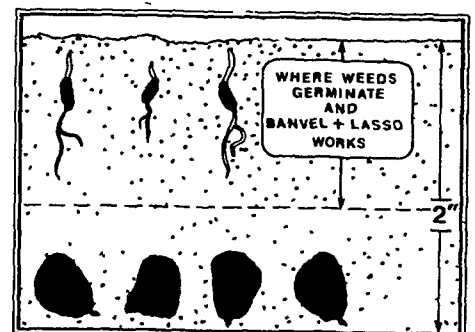
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