

Guard Horses From Respiratory Diseases

Lying down on the job may indicate laziness in humans, but a horse that lies down is probably ill. If you observe your horse lying down at an unexpected place or time or standing miserably with his ears at half-mast, he should be watched carefully. Any of

these commonly found symptoms may indicate an illness - frequently a respiratory infection: a runny nose or eyes, listlessness, lack of interest in food, a dull coat, persistent coughing, a temperature, swelling or

bruises, bare spots on the skin, or unusual lumps. Check the temperature first. Special horse thermometers are available, although a regular rectal thermometer will do. A normal temperature for your horse is 99.5 - 100.5 degrees. Any reading over 101 degrees merits a call to your veterinarian.

If your horse contracts a respiratory infection, it may result in chronic bronchitis, also known as "heaves." This is an asthmatic condition affecting respiration, circulation, stamina and the horse's general condition. It affects horses five years of age or older and results from an overexpansion of the air cells of the lungs which causes the horse to take in

extra air and then use its stomach muscles to force it out.

Even a slight cough should be checked out. A horse with heaves destroys air sacs every time he coughs - just as a human with emphysema does. Heaves can be the result of bad feed or musty hay and can be aggravated by exercise, feeding of heavy roughage and confinement to a dusty stable.

Roaring and whistling are two different stages of another respiratory disorder resulting from a paralysis of the nerves that control the vocal cord muscles. In mild cases, the horse makes a whistling sound when he inhales. In severe cases, there is a loud wheeze, known as roaring, that oc-

curs when the horse is inhaling.

Respiratory infections occur frequently in horses that pass through sales barns, fair stables, racetracks, training stables and other places where many diverse animals are brought together. Such infections spread rapidly in large groups of horses and may cause severe illness or death. On farms, respiratory disease is usually mild and may be introduced by a newly acquired horse. Since diseases of this type are spread mostly by direct contact between infected and susceptible horses, it is wise to stable and pasture horses separately. With proper attention, these diseases can be controlled.

If your veterinarian diagnoses a respiratory

infection, make sure the animal has absolute rest in a clean, well-bedded, well-ventilated stall. It should have access to good hay supplemented with grain and clean, fresh water. Your veterinarian may tell you to eliminate hay altogether and substitute special feeds such as a pellet concentrate. After your horse's temperature returns to normal, light exercise may be good; this helps reduce or prevent swelling of the legs.

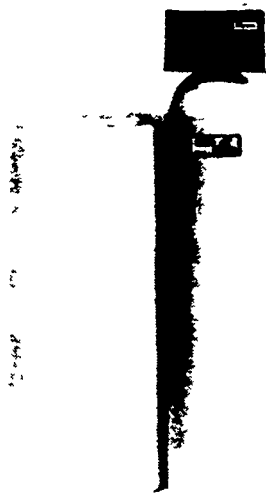
With professional treatment, the chances for recovery from respiratory infection will be favorable for your horse. If neglected, however, it may develop into chronic bronchitis or even pneumonia, which will weaken and may kill the animal.

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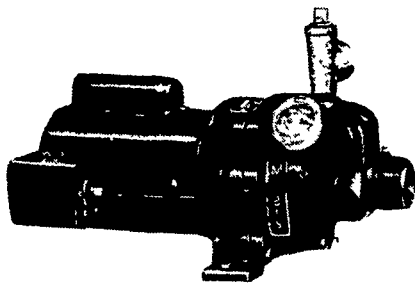
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Lebanon Pullers Slate Contest

Lebanon Valley Tractor Pullers Association will sponsor their first pull on Friday, June 6 at 7:00 p.m. at the Lebanon Area Fair Grounds - located one mile South of Lebanon off Rt. 72.

The pull will be class B sanctioned with 12 classes including out of the field classes, modified and super stock. Trophies and cash prizes will be awarded.

Tickets will be on sale at the gate and admission is \$2.50 for adults and \$1.50 for children 6-12 years of age. Children under six will be admitted free of charge.

People are asked to bring lawn chairs as no bleachers are available.

The second pull of the season will be held during the week of the Lebanon County Fair to be staged Monday, August 11 and Friday, August 15.

The tractor puller's

association recently elected officers with the following members taking leadership positions:

Charles Bomgardner, Anville - president; John Herr, Lebanon - vice president; Joseph Shott, Jr., Lebanon - secretary and Dennis Grumbine, Myerstown - treasurer.

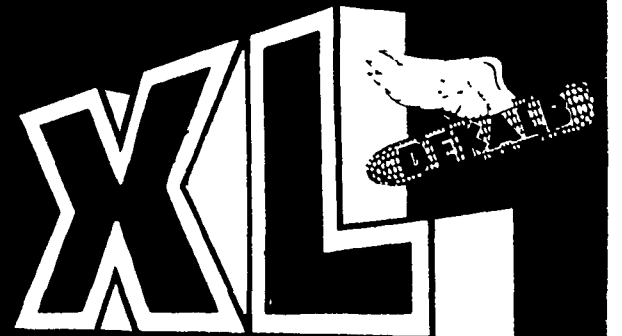
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