

High-Tech Help For Horses

(Continued from Page E2)

workers are employed in various departments.

The surgery area is equipped with four induction and recovery stalls. The system of swinging doors and padded walls allow an anesthetized horse to sink softly to the sternal position, and from there they are placed on the surgical table and rolled into surgery, explained Nadjar.

One of the two surgical suites offers an observation room for owners.

Following surgery, the horses take 30-45 minutes to recover, which they do in a padded stall with dimmed lights and the verbal encouragement from an attendant. Oxygen is also available to help the patient recover.

Although it is a university teaching hospital, less than 20 percent of the center's funding comes from state and university resources and those funds may be directed only towards teaching of the fourth-year veterinary stu-

dents on rotation at the hospital.

The majority of the funding comes from patient care revenue, although private fundraising has paved the way for such projects as a new treadmill facility and an eight-stall isolation unit now under construction.

Whenever a horse is isolated in the hospital, said Nadjar, any caretaker entering the stall will wear boots, gloves, and a gown to prevent cross-contamination. Although these extensive sanitary procedures are in place for the barns now, "this (new) building is set up to facilitate that (bio-control) more easily," she said. Each stall will have separate air handling capability to allow hospitalization for horses with potentially contagious respiratory conditions.

The center also has two 12-stall care, five intensive care unit stalls, and a few holding stalls in use.

The center is one of three campuses which



Teresa Twaddle, director of nursing, prepares medication to treat a horse here at the center.

make up the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. The college is jointly operated by Virginia Tech and University of Maryland with its main campus in Blacksburg, Virginia and an additional campus in College Park, Maryland.

Treadmill

A new addition to the center is the James P. Mills Diagnostic Treadmill Building. The treadmill service was intro-

duced in April 2002.

The treadmill has proven to be a valuable diagnostic tool, according to Dr. Celia Goodall, clinical instructor in equine surgery. In the spring and fall, peak training times, the treadmill is used 2-3 times a week.

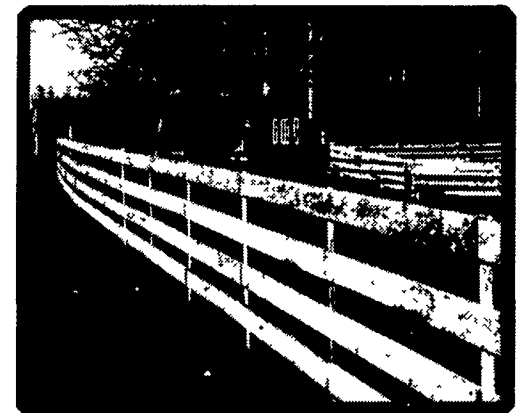
"We want the horses when they're completely fit because we're going to run them as if they're in a race," she said.

(Turn to Page E4)

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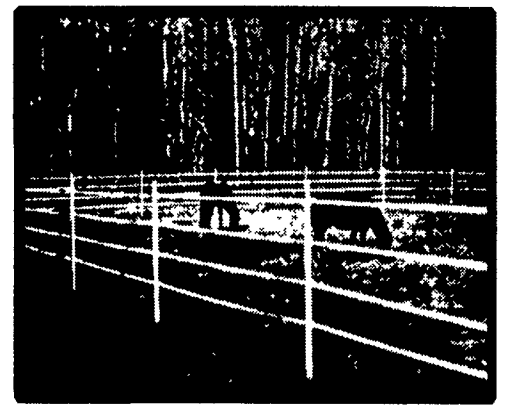
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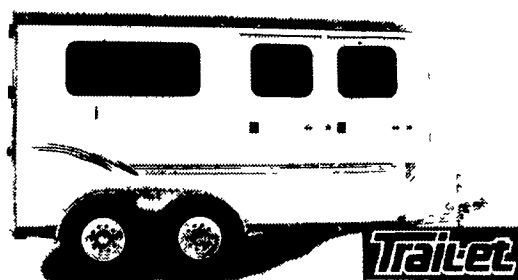
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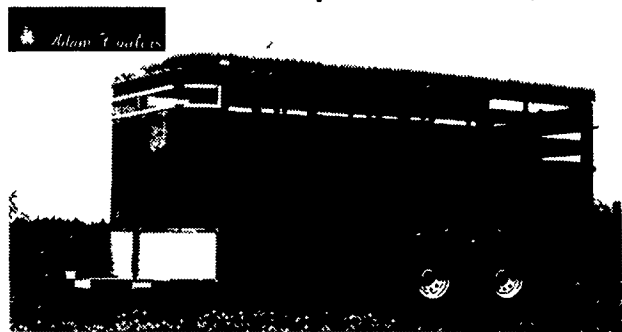
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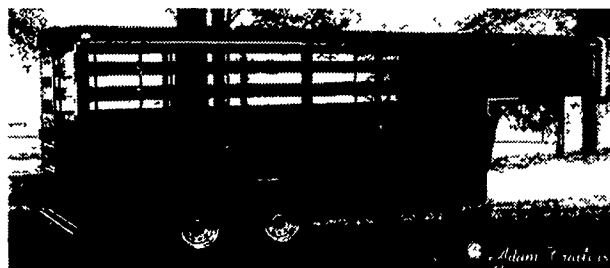
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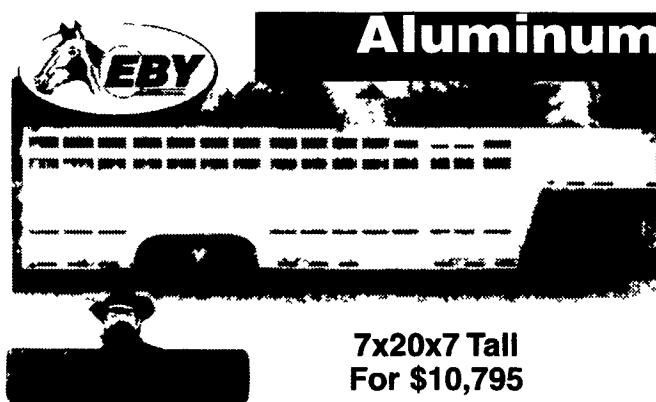
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