



Herd This?



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The weather is turning cooler and you are probably starting to ride more. The mosquito population has exploded so don't forget to call and schedule an appointment for:

- Fall Vaccinations
- Annual Dentistries
- Coggins (annual)
- Wellness Exams (check out the Equine Wellness Program on our website for discounts)
- Fecal Exams/ Deworming Recommendations
- Nutritional Consult

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Equine Castration in a Nut Shell

Castration is a surgical procedure performed by a veterinarian that is defined as the removal of the testicles of a male horse. The procedure can be accomplished through sedation and local anesthesia in a standing position or through general anesthesia with the horse lying on its side (lateral recumbency). This procedure is typically performed once the horse is skeletally mature (roughly 2-5 years) to reap the beneficial effects of testosterone. However, when performed before this age, the horse will still achieve the same size (a little slower) and unwanted pregnancies can be avoided. This procedure is typically performed on colts to make them more manageable and easier to train. Castration is also necessary if the horse has minimal breeding value. In horses with potential breeding value, castration may be delayed to determine if the horse has enough performance ability to make him attractive as a future sire.

A growing concern for the unwanted horse has also increased the need for castration. The goal, as a horse owner, is to act responsibly as the plight of the unwanted horse is a growing welfare issue. The Unwanted Horse Coalition, a broad alliance of national equine organizations joined together under the American Horse Council, is working to educate industry groups and help people learn to "own responsibly." Colts that possess undesirable traits should be gelded so they do not pass these traits on to their offspring.

Stallions are constantly affected or influenced by testosterone and can be aggressive and potentially dangerous to other horses and people. A mature, intact male horse may become progressively more aggressive and difficult to train as he becomes older. Some reports indicate that if horses are left intact too long, as many as 65 percent may continue to express the undesirable traits as learned behavior. Therefore castration later in life may not stop "learned behaviors" that have already been established as normal behavior for a recently castrated stallion. Depending upon the horse's age and maturity level, it may take several weeks for the testosterone levels to decrease after castration. Aggression, especially toward other horses, may still be seen for this short period of time. Stallions castrated after maturity (six years old or older), especially those that have bred mares, may continue to possess stallion-like behavior, which could include the development of an erection and an attempt to mount and breed mares in estrus.



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In this Issue

Well, another summer has come and gone here in the southeast and we are finally looking forward to fall and winter weather. This issue is packed with information about preparing horses for the cooler (thank goodness) temperatures!

From castrating, to managing hard keepers, to a new service offered at Pineview, hopefully we can answer some questions about the best way to enjoy this winter. Also be sure to check out the last page as we host a Client Appreciation Day and welcome our new associate—Dr. Jennifer Freeman!



As of September 1, 2014, we have had 9 cases of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in NC and 7 cases in SC. Please don't forget to set up your fall boosters!

What is Beet Pulp?

The forms of beet pulp:



Beet pulp shreds



Beet pulp pellets



Beet pulp shreds darken when soaked

As we gear up for another winter in North and South Carolina, one thing on a lot of owners' minds is how to feed to get through the winter. One feed that can add a lot of energy more economically is beet pulp. Beet pulp is a highly digestible form of fiber, which is turned into energy in a horse's hindgut. One pound of beet pulp has more energy than one pound of hay, helping add weight to a hard keeper.

Beet pulp can come in two forms—pelleted or shredded. Both forms can come with or without molasses to taste. Both forms must be soaked prior to feeding with the additional benefit of increasing a horse's water intake during the winter. Beet pulp absorbs more warm water than cold so in the winter try to add warm water.

It is also low in sugar (depending on how much molasses is added) and starch,

making it a good choice for insulin-resistant horses. One drawback, however, is that beet pulp is high in potassium, especially if it also contains molasses, which can trigger an episode of HYPP in horses that are carriers for this disease.

So how much do you feed? A general rule of thumb is to start with half a pound twice a day (dry weight before soaking). After a week, you can start to increase the amount by a half a pound (dry) each feeding once a week. Beet pulp is filling to horses but can also be lacking in several nutrients so don't feed more than two to three pounds twice a day. Also, because beet pulp is lower in protein and phosphorus, use it with caution in young, growing horses.

You can soak the beet pulp during the day or night to feed the next meal, just smell it before you feed to make sure it hasn't gotten moldy. To keep the flies away from it, you can

cover the bucket with a towel or old fly mask. This will still allow air flow which will decrease the chances of it turning moldy before you feed it.

Finally, if you don't want to feed straight beet pulp, try looking for a horse feed that has beet pulp in it. Many equine senior feeds are adding beet pulp to their diets for additional energy. Look for it on the ingredients list and remember—the higher on the list it is named, the more of it is in the feed.

If you have any questions about diet changes or how to maintain your horse's condition throughout the winter, please set up a nutrition consultation with one of our vets soon. We will be happy to measure exactly what you are feeding now, weigh your horse and calculate his or her ideal condition and feeding amount, and recommend changes to your feeding routine, including adding beet pulp to your regimen.

Please refer to our website www.pineviewvet.com for more information regarding any of the articles discussed in this quarter's equine newsletter. Click on the "Client Education" link on our home page and search any of the articles that interest you.

Now Offering Microchipping for Horses

We are excited to announce that Pineview will now be offering microchipping services for horses. We will be using MicrochipID Equine (www.microchipIDequine.com) and can place the chip in one simple farm visit.

We will be charging \$45 per microchip and can do it when we come out for fall shots. It usually takes only about 15 minutes to do!



Microchips in horses are implanted in the neck, just below the mane. The area is cleaned and prepped and the chip, about the size of a grain of rice, is placed with a large needle. Most horses tolerate the procedure very well.

MicrochipID chips each have a unique 15-digit number, making them ideal for horses who travel and those who may have to evacuate. The number can also be a form of identification used on Coggins forms and breed association registrations. These chips can be read by a universal reader that we will have on our trucks and are available for purchase by owners if you travel.

Once the chip is implanted, owner and horse information is entered on the Microchip website. This information can be updated as needed if you move or the horse changes farms. The company can then be notified if a horse goes missing, such as during a hurricane or if the horse is stolen.

Call us today to schedule your appointment and feel free to ask to see the chip the next time we come out!



Castration (continued)

In some horses, the timing of castration is accelerated due to a condition referred to as cryptorchidism. Cryptorchidism is the retention of one (unilateral) or both (bilateral) testicles. A horse that is cryptorchid is also referred to in layman's terms as a "ridgling," a "rig" or a "high flanker." Non-descended testicles have reduced fertility or are completely sterile as their retention in the inguinal canal or abdomen makes them ineffective at producing sperm because of the higher body temperature. However, retained testicles produce the same amount of testosterone, so stallion-like behavior will remain the same. This trait has long been considered heritable and may be genetically transferred to offspring.

In preparation for gelding, the horse should be in good health and current on deworming and immunizations, particularly tetanus. If the horse has never received vaccinations, owners are advised to have the horse vaccinated by the attending veterinarian and wait two weeks after vaccination to have the castration procedure performed. When anesthetics were unpredictable, with a narrow safety margin, horses were castrated standing. However, with today's safe and effective short-term anesthetics, most horses are gelded anesthetized while lying on the ground. With regard to cryptorchid castrations, determination of a unilateral or bilateral presentation of testicles as well as which side is retained (unilateral presentation only) is important to determine as the procedure may differ. Statistically, left retained testicles tend to be located in the abdominal cavity where as right retained testicles tend to be located in the inguinal ring.



Two incisions are made over the scrotum to expose each testicle for removal. The scrotum remains after surgery and is left open to allow for drainage of the surgery site.

Following castration, horses will receive a tetanus toxoid booster (if vaccinations are current) or both tetanus toxoid and a tetanus antitoxin injection if the horse has never been vaccinated. At Pineview we always administer antibiotics and NSAIDs (anti-inflammatory) medications to your horse following surgery. We recommend that your horse be placed in a small paddock or stall for 12 to 24 hours for observation (or spend one night with us at Pineview) to ensure adequate clotting occurs. If your horse is to be stalled, bed the enclosure with fresh shavings or straw to make as clean an environment as possible. Beginning the day after surgery, we recommend that your horse exercise at a trot or on an automatic walker for at least 15 to 20 minutes twice a day (assuming they are used to this level of exercise) to avoid swelling and stimulate drainage of any post-surgical fluid that may have accumulated in the swollen scrotum. Exercise or regular turn out should continue for about two weeks or until healing is complete.

Post-surgical complications can occur but are rare. The most common is excessive swelling of the scrotum that can extend down into the lower hind legs. If increased exercise does not resolve the problem, contact Pineview right away. In rare instances, if a horse has an unusually large inguinal ring, intestines may protrude from the incision. This usually occurs within a few hours of the surgical procedure but can happen days later. If this occurs, consider it a true emergency and contact Pineview immediately. Semen remains in the horse's accessory sex glands and the portion of the vas deferens not removed during surgery. There is usually enough present for one ejaculation. Therefore, gelded mature horses should be quarantined from mares for 30 days post-surgery.

Horse owners can promote equine welfare by becoming educated on castration practices and working proactively to address widespread concerns of the unwanted horse. If the goal is to continue to improve a breed and minimize the number of horses that fail to meet expectations, the surgical procedure of castration should be utilized to decrease the number of unwanted horses.



Emasculator, used to remove testicles



GOOD NEWS!

To help encourage responsible management of our equine population, Pineview is pleased to offer a **20% discount** on castrations scheduled during or for the month of November.

The procedure can either be performed at our hospital in Bolton or on your farm.

Appointments are going quickly so please call Donna at the office (910-655-2442) to set up your appointment ASAP!





Join Us in Saying Thank You!

As the leaves begin to change and the weather finally starts to cool off, Pineview is seeing some changes of its own. As many of you know, Dr. Heidi Hart and her family will be transitioning to the next chapter in their lives as missionaries. Dr. Christine Long is buying the practice and will continue to provide the same high quality service you have come to expect from us.

To say thank you for being a valued client, we are having a Client Appreciation Day on

Saturday October 25, 2014 at 10am at the Boys and Girls Home of NC in Lake Wac-camaw, NC. Please RSVP to Donna at the office no later than October 1st.

Dr. Hart will be stepping away from the practice at the end of the year and we want to take this time to celebrate all of the work she has put into making Pineview the hospital it is today.

You will also have the

opportunity to meet our new Associate, Dr. Jennifer Freeman.

We look forward to seeing you as we begin this new chapter in our lives!



*So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.
1 Corinthians 10:31*

Pineview Veterinary Hospital is a large animal veterinary practice meeting the needs of large animals in south-eastern North Carolina and northeastern South Carolina.

Our mission is to provide high quality service to our clients coupled with the most advanced and progressive veterinary care for our patients with an emphasis on preventive and herd health medicine.

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Welcome to Our New Vet!



Dr. Jennifer Freeman obtained her Bachelor's degree in Animal and Veterinary Science from Clemson University in 2007. She then continued to the Ohio State University where she earned her Master's of Public

Health in Veterinary Public Health in 2012 and then completed her Doctorate in Veterinary Medicine from the University of Georgia in 2014.

Dr. Freeman's professional interests include equine lameness, both equine and bovine herd health management, and bovine embryo transfer. Although she grew up an Army brat, she has spent most of her life in the South and currently calls Charleston, SC home.

Her personal interests are cheering on the Clemson Tigers and Georgia Bulldogs in football,

returning to 2nd level Dressage after a break for school, and spending time with her 2 year old Lab Diesel.

She looks forward to joining the Pineview family and is excited to meet all our clients!

