



Cannon Veterinary Services

Thomas F. Winter DVM

April 2009

EQUINOMICS

Equinomics or better known as Equine Economics is an extremely important topic for all horse owners. Did you know that there are more than 9.2 million horses in the United States today? And 7.1 million Americans are involved in the industry as owners, service providers, or employees. The total contribution to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is \$112.1 billion dollars. It ranks our industry, higher than the motion picture industry.

According to the *Minnesota Board of Animal Health*, Minnesota has the ninth largest horse population in the nation (with over 150,000 horses). The horse industry contributes almost 1 billion dollars to Minnesota's economy.

Think about the investment in our real estate, barns or horse facilities, trucks and trailers. Add the cost of equipment, feed, supplements, bedding, and salaries or wages. As well as trainer and farrier fees, veterinary services or products. Add the cost of clothes, food and motel rooms – while traveling or at horse shows. Also consider the rising fuel and insurance costs, the state sales tax, income tax, and real estate tax. The Local, State, and Federal governments should acknowledge the equine industry and the impact it has on the wider economy.

Today the United States Government is facing financial challenges. Daily, the economists discuss the widespread recession caused by irresponsible loan sharks and CEO's, financially failing banks and businesses, as well as Wall Street's greed and stock market losses. The unemployment rate has grown to 8.1%. To create more problems, President Obama with the support of the Democratic House and Senate has increased the Federal Deficit to 10.9 Trillion dollars. The government should cut costs and run efficiently like small businesses. We know how to limit spending when the times get tough.

Today the equine industry is facing financial challenges as well. The animal rights movement led the charge to close all US slaughter plants. Their intentions were in the best interest of the horses, however they were not aware and didn't care of the horrific impact it would have on the equine industry. Eliminated was the humane and federally regulated euthanasia option for owners of unwanted horses. At the same time, the base price for horses fell to an all time low. The oil company's greed and the high cost of oil in 2008 had a trickle down effect. The cost increased for hay, feed, bedding and every thing we use. The cost to maintain a horse drastically increased as their values declined. Equine industry experts estimate that more than 100,000 unwanted horses suffer from neglect, starvation, abandonment, or death. We are thankful, that many of the horses are placed in rescue and recovery organizations while others are adopted by new families. Sadly, because there are no markets for processing here in the United States, the rest of the horses are packed into trailers and shipped to Canada or Mexico. The standards of the foreign facilities are not held to the humane handling and standards of this country. The United States must pass laws to have Federal inspectors in the processing plants so horses can be humanely processed. The haulers must be able to transport the horse's interstate to the processing plants. A law must be passed at the Federal Level. If this happens —horse values should increase. Contact your Federal representative and Vote "no" to the John Conyers bill HR503.

Also, horses must be considered *agricultural animals* at both the state and federal levels of government. If they are not, your income tax or Real Estate Taxes may be affected.

Regardless of breed or the purpose we have for owning horses, we horse people must band together and be properly represented at the Federal, State & Local governments.

To benefit the equine industry, we must be aware of the current and future legislation.

Together, we can survive and succeed!!

Your Horses Health Records

CVS has created an Equine Health care record form that fits into a three ring binder. For your convenience and to aid **Dr. Winter** in diagnosing an illness or treating an injury, it is important to document the following basic types of information.

- **Vaccinations** Record when the vaccinations are given and when a booster is due. If your horse has a reaction, record the reaction or symptoms.
- **Medications** List any drugs your horse has received, including dosages, date administered and reactions.
- **Medical Incidents** When you treat minor scrapes, snuffles or strains yourself, record what happened and how you treated it. . Seemingly, unrelated problems may reveal a pattern over time. Also note how long it took your horse to recover and any setbacks he may have had.
- **Veterinary Visits** When **Dr. Winter** examines your horse, record the tests performed, the results, the diagnosis and treatment.
- **Dental Work** Record the dental exams ,routine floating, as well as the more complicated treatments such as extractions.
- **Farrier Work** Record routine hoof trimming or shoeing, as well as the next appointment. If your horse requires specialized hoof care, record the details, such as degree of wedge pads and his response.
- **Baselines and Basic Care** Periodically record your horses vital signs, (heart rate, and temperature) , as well as information about his feed rations, exercise regimen and stable habits (vices or quirks)

FREE!! We Created Medical Records Ready for Your Use.

Vital Signs

- Rectal Temp (99.8 -101°F),
- Resting heart rate (20-24 beats/min),
- Capillary refill (2-3 seconds),
- Respiratory rate (8-12 breaths/min)

A digital thermometer is a useful tool for temperature. The heart rate can be taken on the inside of the jaw. The capillary refill is taken by pressing on the gum tissue and noting how many seconds it takes for the color to return. The respiratory rate is easy to watch belly movement or feel the hot air from the nostrils.

CEM You've heard about it but What is it?

Protect your mare this breeding season, from contracting **Contagious Equine Metritis**. It was first discovered in England in 1978 and has now scarily made its way to the U.S. CEM is a highly contagious sexually transmitted disease spread by infected stallions to mares during live cover, artificial insemination, or by using non sterilized gloves and instruments.

CEM fatality has not been reported however its effects can be devastating. After breeding to an infected stallion, the mare may develop a discharge and usually become temporarily infertile. This exposure may cause them to be life long carriers. CEM can cause mares to abort or they may not conceive at all. If they do carry the baby to full term, the foal then becomes a carrier. A mare that is a carrier may not show any signs. If a suspected infection has occurred, your mare should be tested. Stallions usually don't show any signs of being infected with CEM, so all stallions should be tested prior to the breeding season.

Optimal Equine Health Care

Dr. Winter and Staff would like to help you plan the spring tune up for your horses. Preventative Medicine is vital in maintaining your horses health and performance.

TUBE DEWORMING : Minimum of 2-4 times per year, Spring and Fall

DENTAL CHECKUPS: Twice a year, Spring and Fall

EIA TEST: Equine Infectious Anemia (Coggins Test) Essential for interstate travel.

VACCINATIONS

We recommend the following and feel they are essential for our location

- **EWET**- Eastern/ Western Encephalitis and Tetanus
- **FLURH** - Influenza and Rhinopneumonitis
- **STR** - Strangles
- **ER** - Equine Rabies
- **WN** - West Nile
- **PHF**- Potomac Horse Fever
- **Lymes**– Lymes disease from ticks.
- **EPM** - Equine Protozoal Myloencephalitis (currently out of stock)

- ⇒ If your horse was vaccinated last year, one series is adequate.
- ⇒ Boosters for **West Nile** and **FLURH** should be done in the fall.
- ⇒ The first time the horse is vaccinated a booster should be given 1 month later.
- ⇒ At 5 months, Foals should receive their 1st vaccinations and boosters in 1 month.
- ⇒ Pregnant mares should be vaccinated 1 month prior to foaling and tube dewormed the day after the foal is born when getting a neonatal exam.
- ⇒ Pregnant mares should have a **RHIK** (Rhinopneumonitis) vaccination prior to breeding and at 5, 7, and 9 months of gestation.

Equine Infectious Anemia (EIA) or Coggins Testing

At this time, there is no cure or vaccine to prevent **Equine Infectious Anemia**. EIA is a serious viral disease that is a world wide threat. If a horse tests positive we always double check and retest. The USDA requires a positive horse to be on strict quarantine or be euthanized. The viral disease (like AIDS) affects the horses immune system and causes red blood cell destruction which leads to secondary infections that may kill the horse.

That's why testing is required to show, travel, sell or move horses interstate. Wisconsin requires a negative coggins test within the current year and MN requires a negative test within one year of the current date. Ask the show coordinator, sale barn or shipper ahead of time to check their requirements.

CVS is a certified EIA lab. On short notice, we can run the Eliza test and provide you with the results within 24 hours. However the cost is more. With notice we can perform an AGID test for results within a few days. You may pick up the forms or we can mail them to you. It is convenient to have the blood drawn when we give your horses their spring vaccinations. If you need a new test, you can haul in or have **Dr. Winter** come to your place. Health Certificates are also needed to cross state lines and sometimes other tests are required depending on the state.

Before traveling with your horses call **CVS** to get the appropriate information and paper work.

Preventative Medicine

Preventative medicine is a combination of good management practices, a strategic de-worming program, a dental checkup and floating, correct vaccine selections, and appropriate usage of vaccine. Your preventative health care plan will be tailored to meet the needs of your horse based on its usage, exposure risk, and age. Did you know that when your horse is properly *Immunized by a veterinarian*, the pharmaceutical companies will support their vaccine. If you give the vaccination—they will not support it. Show and trail riding season is finally here! For maximum protection, now is the time to have your horse vaccinated, tube de-wormed, coggins tested, teeth checked, and a lameness evaluation if needed. It is less expensive to provide preventative health care than it is to treat a disease.



Cannon Vet Services
Certified
EIA Lab



Straight from the Horses Mouth

Just Like You, your horse needs regular dental checkups as part of their preventative health care program. Routine dental care extends the life and health of your horse and may improve their performance.

Our goal is to provide you with the facts. By doing routine preventative dentistry the following problems can be avoided.

Recognizing Dental Problems

By observing your horses body language, you may notice the following behaviors or problems:

- ◆ Passing whole grain, corn, or long pieces of hay in the manure
- ◆ Choosing to eat hay before grain
- ◆ Dribbling feed from mouth
- ◆ Eating very slow
- ◆ Salivating a lot while eating
- ◆ Loosing weight or body condition
- ◆ Swelling of the face mouth or jaw
- ◆ A discharge from the nose, eyes or mouth
- ◆ A foul odor from the mouth or nose
- ◆ Resisting the bridle
- ◆ Tossing or tilting of the head
- ◆ Chewing on or fighting of the bit

The Dental Exam

While checking teeth **Dr. Winter** will be looking for and feeling:

- Sharp molar edges that cut or scrape your horses tongue and inside cheek
- Tooth misalignments that make grinding food difficult
- Trapped slivers of hay or grain that create pockets of infection
- Cracked molars that allow decay to destroy roots
- Wolf teeth that interfere with the bit
- Baby teeth, called caps that have not been shed
- Gum inflammation from periodontal disease
- Lost or broken teeth
- An abnormal or uneven bite plate
- Long or uneven incisors (front teeth) that may need to be cut off or filed down

Corrective Procedures

The procedure **Dr. Winter** uses will vary according to the severity of the dental problem:

- The caps will be removed
- The wolf teeth may be extracted
- The hooks and sharp points will be floated. A more even "bite plate" is developed
- The long canine teeth may need extensive floating or to be cut off
- The loose or abscessed teeth may require surgical extraction and extensive antibiotics
- **Performance horses who are ridden with a bit can be given a "bit seat". Which means the front check teeth are rounded off to give a nice smooth place for the bit to rest. By reducing discomforts, the result is better control.**

**Dr. Winter feels dental work is extremely important !!
He has had extensive training in Equine Dentistry and takes pride in
utilizing his power float to do the best job possible !!**



Cannon Veterinary Services Staff

Dr. Tom Winter: A dedicated Equine practitioner who believes in preventative medicine. He promotes core vaccinations, tube deworming, dental care, fertility exams, pre purchase exams, lameness evaluations, ultrasound, x-rays and diagnostic lab work. He enjoys riding his reining mare “Sis”, and training his young horses “Smarty & Lizzy”. Sundays are reserved for relaxation and trail riding with friends.

Linda Winter: Manages the business end of the practice. She teaches canine obedience training and provides behavior counseling. She is a certified massage therapist for horses, dogs, and cats. In her spare time, she loves to ride her designer buckskin Quarter Horse mare “Sere”. She enjoys raising and training her miniature Australian Shepherds “Foxy, Dezi and Trav”

Liz King: A graduate of University of Wisconsin River Falls with an Animal Science Degree, Liz joined the team because of her interest in horses as well as small animals. She recently moved to Cannon Falls and also works at Wiederholts Supperclub and Cannon Falls Ambulance Service. With her free time she enjoys Barrel Racing her Quarter Horse, “Fancy”.

Jenna Haworth: Jenna started as an intern from Argosy University and is now a full time Certified Vet Tech. Her and husband Jon are currently looking for a home in the area. In her free time she enjoys playing with her smooth fox Terrier, “Tucker” and also loves training and competing in Dressage with her American Warmblood, “Colby”.

Kayla Peters: Currently going to MSB college in Rochester to be a Vet Tech and working part time here at the clinic. She enjoys riding her horse, Stanton and is looking forward to a future career as a Vet Tech.

Kate Sutton-brown: Works full time at Summit Orthopedics and two Saturdays a month at CVS. Kate and husband Steve live in Hastings and spend their time doting on their foster children and precious pets.

Dr. Tom, Linda, and staff would like you to know that you are dearly appreciated !!!

We are dedicated to Veterinary medicine and our CVS practice. We are thankful to share our lives with our animals as well as yours. We will provide the highest quality progressive equine health care by carrying the newest pharmaceuticals in the market, and by having the best technical equipment. We will provide you with education, good service, and compassion.

Most importantly, we are committed to helping you succeed in the equine industry!!!!!!

! New Ultrasound !

Dr Winter purchased a new digital ultrasound machine that enables him to diagnose and make the best recommendations for treatment and well-being of your horse or small animals! He has attended classes to perfect his skills in order to best utilize this machine. This machine has many more capabilities and allows him to provide the following services:

- ◆ Pregnancy checking mares
- ◆ Detects multiple embryos @ 16 days which allows him to do a twin reduction
- ◆ Locates a source of pain
- ◆ Provides a color view of blood flow to and from an area of concern
- ◆ Shows the Internal views of organs in dogs and cats
- ◆ Identifies kidney stones
- ◆ Saves images and videos which can be exported or emailed for second opinions or records
- ◆ Allows us to print a photograph of the embryo or particular image of concern

LAMINITIS

“Laminitis” is defined as any change of blood flow to the laminae of the foot. It is a painful and often preventable disease. It may be that we are killing our horses with kindness. Learning more about its causes, signs, and treatments you may be able to minimize the risk to your horse or control long-term damage if it does occur.

Causes:

- ◆ Digestive upset due to grain over load or abrupt change in diet
- ◆ “Grass Founder” a sudden access to excessive amounts of lush forage
- ◆ High fever or illness
- ◆ Severe colic
- ◆ Retained placenta in the mare after foaling
- ◆ Consumption of cold water by an overheated horse
- ◆ Bedding that contains black walnut shavings

Signs of acute laminitis may include the following

- ◆ Lameness, especially when a horse is turning in circles, shifting lameness when standing
- ◆ Heat around the coronary band or hooves
- ◆ Increased digital pulse in the hooves
- ◆ Pain in the toe region when pressure is applied with hoof testers
- ◆ A “sawhorse stance” with the front legs stretched out in front to alleviate pressure

Signs of chronic laminitis may include the following:

- ◆ Rings within the hoof wall become wider from the coronary band to the toe
- ◆ Bruised soles or “stone bruises”
- ◆ Widened white line, commonly called “seedy toe” Frequent abscesses
- ◆ Dropped soles or flat feet
- ◆ Thick “cresty” neck

The sooner **Treatment** begins, the better the chance for recovery. Diagnose and treat the primary problem (Laminitis is often due to systemic or general problems elsewhere in the horses body)

- ◆ Restrict diet; discontinue feeding all grain based feeds and pasture; offer grass hay until advised otherwise
- ◆ Treat with mineral oil via nasogastric tube, to purge the horse’s digestive tract, especially if the horse has overeaten
- ◆ Administer various drugs depending on cause and **Dr. Winter’s** diagnosis
- ◆ Stable the horse on soft ground or bedding to encourage the horse to lie down, which will alleviate the pressure from the weakened laminae
- ◆ Open and drain the abscesses which may develop
- ◆ Cooperation between **Dr. Winter** and your farrier

Recoveries can be exceptional or less than expected, but the horse can still go on to live a long, useful life.

If you are concerned or have questions, call and talk to one of the staff members or discuss the concerns with **Dr. Winter**. An appointment can be scheduled at your convenience.

Is Your Horse Protected Against Rabies?

Getting your horse vaccinated for rabies is one of the most important things you can do for your horse and yourself as well. Rabies is *always* fatal and highly contagious. It’s very difficult to diagnose rabies in a horse. The only way for it to be truly diagnosed is for a brain necropsy to be performed. An infected horse may be aggressive towards people and other horses, exhibit signs of colic, lose their appetite, develop a fever, experience lameness or muscle twitching, or may cause self-mutilation. **CVS** strongly recommends vaccinating your foal at 6 months of age, booster in one month, and vaccinate every year thereafter. Keep in mind, pregnant mares should be vaccinated 4-6 weeks prior to their due date.

Everything an infected horse has been in contact with needs to be thoroughly disinfected. The handlers of the rabid horse will need to undergo a series of vaccinations to prevent themselves from contracting the disease. All this can be easily prevented by a simple yearly vaccination.

CVS CREDIT POLICY

Just to review our options for payment of services and supplies from **CVS** and **Dr. Winter**.

- ◆ **CASH**– Our preferred and greatly appreciated method of payment, is cash or check when the services are performed
- ◆ **CREDIT CARD**– For your convenience, we accept VISA or MasterCard. Please provide your credit card number when you schedule your appointment. After the services are performed a receipt will be mailed to you.
- ◆ **PERSONAL CREDIT**– This credit option is designed for the client or farm that has frequent visits by **Dr. Winter** each month. We encourage full payment when you receive your statement. A five dollar service charge and 1.5% interest will be added if the statement is not paid in full each month. Because of the rising costs we prefer payment at the time **Dr. Winter** provides services. He will give you a receipt and a record of the services performed will be entered into our computer system.

Strategic Parasite Control and Prevention

The number of parasites, which impact our horses, are increasing and building a resistance to the most common paste wormers. It is proven, that **tube deworming** remains the most comprehensive and effective way to eliminate parasites with confidence. Parasitic infestation may cause permanent damage to the intestinal tract of your horse, even while it appears to be healthy. Parasites can be minimized greatly if a strategic de-worming program is used.

Paste wormers are somewhat effective when utilized as part of a more comprehensive plan. Unfortunately unless properly administered, much of the paste wormer is spit out and not digested by the horse. **Dr. Winter** believes that including regular **tube deworming** in your de-worming program is the best technique to ensure your horse's quality of health. Because **tube deworming** delivers the treatment directly to the gut where parasites reside, it has optimal results. Rotating the class of drug/chemical in the de-wormer is an important part of the parasite control plan.

Since parasites are primarily transferred through manure, good management is also the key.

The American Association of Equine Veterinarians Recommends:

- Pick up and dispose the manure droppings on a regular basis (twice weekly)
- Mow pastures regularly and break up manure piles to expose parasite eggs and larvae to the elements
- Rotate pastures by allowing other livestock, such as sheep or cattle, to graze them. Thereby interrupting the life cycles of equine specific parasites
- Group horses by age to reduce exposure to certain parasites and maximize a de-worming program
- Minimize horses per acre to prevent overgrazing and reduce the fecal contamination per acre
- Use a feeder for hay and grain rather than feeding on the ground
- Remove bot eggs quickly and regularly from the horse's hair coat to prevent ingestion
- Rotate de-worming agents, not just brand names, to prevent chemical resistance

There are many different types of equine parasites, each causing its own unique damage to the horse. For example, the stomach worm larvae can expand a wound and prevent it from healing, causing "summer sores". Small strongyles burrow into the intestinal wall and can cause weight loss, diarrhea, and colic. Pinworms cause the horse to become extremely itchy in the anal area causing the horse to rub its tail hair off. Roundworms burrow and hatch in the intestines, and the bloodstream carries them throughout the internal organs. These are just a few of the many parasites that are out there infecting our horses everyday.

Certain paste wormers are effective against specific parasites. Rotate paste dewormers and include tube deworming in your plan. This will ensure you rid your horse of all parasites that could harm them.

CVS is a Distributor for the **ViceBreaker H2** Remote Controlled Electronic Collar for Horses - This device is great for correcting behaviors such as wood chewing, cribbing, aggressiveness, stall weaving or stall kicking.

* If interested in more information or to purchase one -- contact Linda at **CVS**.



Cannon Veterinary Services

31310 Woodhaven Trail
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

Cannon Falls Line (651) 258-4050 Twin Cities Line (651) 222-0885

Fax (651) 258-4051 Email Drtfwinter@yahoo.com

Save the Call Charge!

Hauling your horse(s) to the clinic benefits everyone! **Dr. Winter** is able to utilize the heated barn and indoor arena for exams and procedures. We can more efficiently schedule the doctors time. We do not charge an office call and you save the call charge.

Our educated staff is available to assist **Dr. Winter** when he provides routine services, performs fertility exams, AI breeding, emergency care, treating injuries or cuts, as well as providing diagnostic procedures. Ultrasound or X-rays can be performed easily and efficiently here at the clinic. We immediately develop the X-rays and provide you with the results.

We take pride in our attention to detail and quality care while your horse is stabled at our facility. If your horse is injured and requires treatment, our qualified staff is able to provide specialized care.

For reproductive work, a mare stabled at our facility will be examined daily for optimum prediction of ovulation. Shipped semen can be sent directly to our office and will be promptly tested for quality. **Dr. Winter** will inseminate the mare at the optimum time to increase the chance of conception.

Come to **CVS** to take advantage of our facilities and lower cost!!!!

Dog Obedience Classes

Beginner Class Starts May 20th

Has your cute puppy turned into a monster?
Does it chew on furniture? Bark at people?
Dig Holes? Run Away? We can Help!

**If you or someone you know is
interested Call Us or Linda 651-258-4050**

Optimal Pet Care

Dr. Winter can vaccinate your smaller pets at your farm when he is treating your horses.

CANINE (Dogs)

Annual Vaccinations :

DHLPPC (Distemper)

Lymes (tick disease),

RABIES

Bordetella (kennel cough) ,

Heartworm Test

HW & Flea preventative

Fecal check

FELINE (Cats)

Annual Vaccinations:

FLVK -Distemper with

Feline Leukemia combo

FVRCP-Distemper

RABIES

Fecal check