



WRVC NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2018

See What's New at WRVC!

February is Dental Health

Month

Book your canine/feline dentals and equine floats in February for 10% off



Annual Open House

Mark your calendars! We will be having our annual Open House on Friday April 20th. We will have food, fun and discounts

Calving Season is Coming

Stop in for all your calving needs



Chutes for SALE

Contact Victoria at the WRVC for further information.



Storage Units Available for Rent

Units are located at our old location. Please contact the clinic for more details

Legacy Room

Located at our new location, is available for community use

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Check us out on Facebook!

Dr. Ethan Andress,
Dr. Lisa Henderson,
Dr. Jenna Innes,
Dr. Bleaux Johnson,
Dr. Don Safratowich,
Dr. Lindy West

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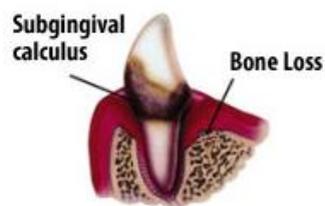
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Do you ever wonder why you can smell your dog or cat's breath when he sits next to you? There could be more underlying issues than just bad breath. If your pet shies away from playing with toys, or won't let you touch his mouth, it could be a sign of dental disease. Drooling or dropping food from the mouth, loose teeth or discolored teeth, weight loss or lack of appetite, are all indications of an underlying problem and are good reasons to have your veterinarian perform an oral exam.

These common symptoms could warn you of a preventable condition known as periodontal disease. "Periodontal disease begins when bacteria in the mouth form a substance called plaque that sticks to the surface of the teeth. Subsequently, minerals in the saliva harden the plaque into dental calculus (tartar), which is firmly attached to the teeth." Even though tartar above the gum line may be evident, it is not the cause of this disease. The cause is from the spread of bacteria, unseen, beneath the gum line which can cause the supporting tissues around the tooth to become loose and painful, requiring extraction of the tooth. Bacteria from the mouth can also enter the bloodstream and cause microscopic changes and possibly infections in the heart, liver, and kidneys.



Treatment for periodontal disease involves placing your pet under anesthesia so a better oral exam can be performed. Then the teeth are scaled and polished to remove all the plaque and tartar which has accumulated. Obtaining dental radiographs (X-rays) would be the next step and are extremely helpful, if available. This would aid in identifying periodontitis which is loss of bone and soft tissue



around the teeth. Many times periodontitis is not evident on the surface of the tooth but underneath the gum line. Radiographs along with other specialized dental tools will guide your veterinarian in applying

special treatments to these areas and to decide whether a tooth needs to be extracted.

In order to evaluate your pet's mouth adequately, general anesthesia is required. You may be concerned about your pet being placed under general anesthesia. However, the risk of long term oral infections and tooth decay along with other systemic infections greatly outweighs the risk of complications from anesthesia. Use of modern anesthetic agents and monitoring equipment in combination with pre-anesthetic blood tests to assess your pet prior to the procedure, significantly lowers the risk with anesthesia. Many patients are awake within 20 minutes following completion of the procedure and can go home that same day.

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Lambing Season Survival

Jenna Innes, DVM

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Periodontal disease is a preventable disease. The most important components are home care and routine veterinary exams with dental cleaning. Preventing plaque and tartar accumulation with daily or even weekly **brushing, is the most effective way to slow the progression of periodontal disease.** Other things that can be used, in addition to brushing, are special diets approved by the Veterinary Oral Health Council, treats, and water additives (be cautious with “miracle home remedies” on the internet that may be worthless and possibly dangerous!). Doing many, if not all, of these things will help your pet maintain a healthier mouth and contribute to a longer life.



Please call the West River Veterinary Clinic to schedule your pet’s dental exam today!

“Periodontal disease”, AVDC American Veterinary Dental College, accessed January 15, 2018 <https://www.avdc.org/periodontaldisease.html>

It’s that time of year again! The snow is falling and soon the lambs and calves will follow. The survival of lambing and calving season is always such a miracle, not only the miracle of birth, but also the producers survival of the long and exhausting days and nights. While most sheep producers are seasoned experts when it comes to lambing, we are slowly gaining new blood into the industry, so a brief discussion about the basics and how to navigate some of the common problems, may help the newcomers and be a nice review for others.



Prior to lambing season there are a few things producers can do to help their odds during the crunch. Ultrasounding is the best way to thin out the flock and decrease unnecessary feed and labor costs. Open ewes will compete for feed, increasing the likely hood of pregnancy toxemia in those that are bred. Others that should be culled during early gestation are those that have bad udders, are unsound, old, or in poor physical condition. All of these will increase your stress and labor load during lambing. Ewes should also be dewormed and vaccinated for clostridials 2 to 4 weeks before lambing. Ewes serve as the main source of infection for both lambs and the pasture.



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It is also a good idea to get all your lambing necessities together ahead of time. Some common items include:

- Obstetrical kit – tool or tackle boxes work great to help hold syringes, needles and other necessities.
- Lambing book to keep records on date, sex, number (single, twin, etc) and any problems or concerns
- Towels/clean rags for cleaning away excess membrane
- Bucket and disinfectant (chlorhexidine) in case you need to assist the ewe
- Lube and OB sleeves
- Chains or leg snare
- Strong iodine for the umbilical cord
- Feeding tube and syringe
- Colostrum replacer and Lamb milk replacer
- Syringes and needles
- Drugs: Antibiotics (examp: ProPenG, Nuflor, Naxel), +/- Selenium & Vitamin E and/or Oxytocin

As parturition approaches, ewe behavioral changes occur. Nesting behavior usually begins 2 – 15 hours prior to lambing and it is best to leave them undisturbed during this phase. Once the water bag is noted, the ewe will usually deliver a lamb within an hour. It is important to monitor the ewe for progress during this time, as one will need to intervene if nothing is happening after an hour of active labor.

If nesting behavior has exceeded 24 hours or active labor has continued for over an hour without a lamb, it is time to investigate. Sterility is key when performing a vaginal exam, scrub hands well with disinfectant and use OB sleeves. Wash off the rectal-vaginal area of the ewe and insert a few lubricated fingers into the vagina to determine if her cervix is dilated. If not dilated, you can give her another 30 minutes and check again, if no progress has then been made, she needs veterinary assistance. If the ewe is dilated, feel for the feet and head, normal presentation is head first with two front legs, as if the lamb is diving into the world. Deviations from the normal presentation should be corrected before attempting to pull the lamb. Slowly and carefully manipulate the body parts into the proper position. If the lamb is backwards or breech, often times it must be carefully repelled forward (towards the ewe) to get the back

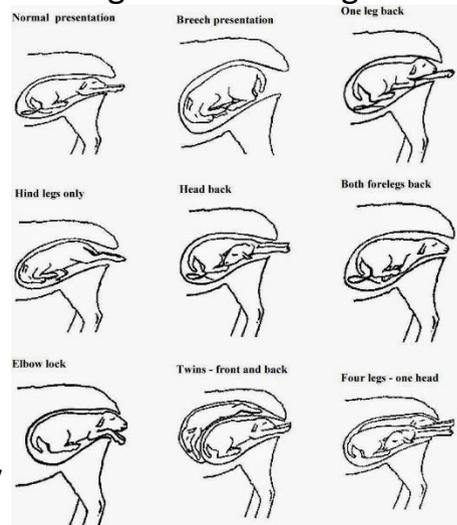


FIGURE 1 Place a loop above and a half-hitch below the fetlock joint, with the connecting chain on the top of the leg

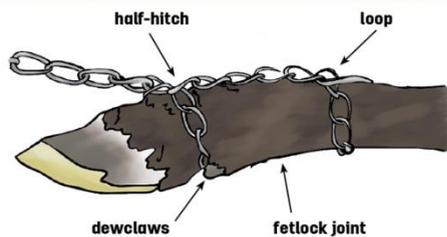


Illustration courtesy of Alabama Extension.

legs straightened out behind, one at a time. obstetrical chains are the most sanitary and easily applied device for traction. One should be placed on each of the two legs with two loops per leg (loop and a half hitch), to avoid breaking a leg. Since multiples are so common, make sure both

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10 Tips for Caring for the Older Horse

Lindy West, DVM

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legs belong to the same lamb before pulling. Steady, slow traction is best, working with the contractions, pulling in an arc towards the ewe's hocks. Once the lamb is delivered, be sure to check for another lamb before moving on. It is also recommended to give the ewe a shot of antibiotic to ward off infection.

Most lamb deaths occur before three weeks of age, usually within 24 hours of birth, with the common causes being starvation, hypothermia and pneumonia. Once the lamb is delivered take a towel and dry it off, wiping the membrane away from the lamb's mouth and nose. Next, iodine the navel and be sure the lamb gets colostrum asap. If the ewe is easy to handle, you can strip the waxy plug from the udders and check a few drops of colostrum from each teat to check for mastitis.

Abandoned/bum lambs should be treated for hypothermia and given artificial colostrum before returning to the ewe in hopes of bonding. Keep the pair in their own jug and watch for aggression from the ewe towards the lamb. If the ewe remains uninterested or aggressive, one can attempt to graft the lamb onto another mom or have a bottle baby.



Lambing can be an exhausting but rewarding time of year. The best way to navigate this season is to sleep when you can, drink caffeine when you can't, be able to recognize problems and willing to ask your veterinarian for advice or assistance when complications arise.

Advances in nutrition, management, and health care are helping horses living longer, more useful lives. It's not uncommon to find horses and ponies living well into their 20's and 30's. While genetics play a role in determining life span, you also can have an impact.

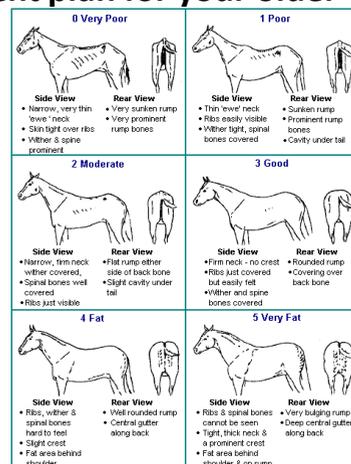
You may think that turning your old-timer out to pasture is the kindest form of Retirement, but horses are individuals. Some enjoy being idle; others prefer to be a part of the action. Whatever you do, don't ignore the horse. Proper nutrition, care, and exercise will help the animal thrive.

Follow these guidelines to help develop a total management plan for your older horse:

1. Observe your horse on a regular basis. Watch for changes in body condition, behavior and attitude. Address problems, even seemingly minor ones, right away. Issues regarding dental, bone/ joint, and nutritional health can quickly get out of hand.

2. Feed a high-quality diet. Avoid dusty and moldy feedstuffs. Most older horses can do fine on a high-roughage (hay) diet as long as their teeth are still in good

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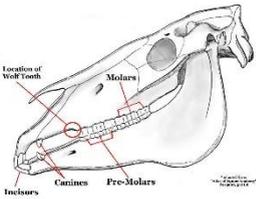




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shape. You can base this decision on what your veterinarian recommends during their latest dental exam. Once your horse starts losing teeth, you may have to supplement a large portion of their diet with a more “senior” type of grain.

3. Feed your older horse away from those that are younger or more aggressive, so it won't have to compete for feed.



4. Feed at more frequent intervals so as not to upset their digestive system. Two to three times daily is good. Free-choice roughage may be needed in some horses that are “hard-keepers.” The more often a horse eats, the better their stress level and oral health tend to be.

5. Provide plenty of fresh, clean, tepid water. Excessively cold water reduces consumption, which in turn can lead to colic and other problems. Encouraging them to drink by offering free-choice salt (block or loose) or electrolytes is always a good idea.

6. Adjust and balance rations to maintain proper body conditions. A good rule of thumb is to be able to feel the ribs but not see them.

7. Provide adequate, appropriate exercise to maintain muscle tone, flexibility and mobility. The amount of exercise required to accomplish this may be anything from pasture turnout with a buddy horse to athletic competitions and daily ranch use. This completely depends on the horse.

8. Groom your horse frequently to promote circulation and skin health. If your horse wears a blanket during the winter, make sure you remove the blanket frequently for grooming to check for sweating or fungal growth underneath. Pay attention to coat length as they should be shedding out in the summer months. If they aren't shedding out as normal, this could be a sign of Cushing's Disease, parasitism, or poor nutrition.

9. Be aware that older horses are prone to tumors. Look for any unusual lumps or growths from head to tail as well as beneath the tail (especially on gray horses).

10. Schedule routine checkups with your equine veterinarian. We generally recommend an exam (including dental exam) at least annually, unless otherwise specified. Call immediately if you suspect a problem.



A quick response to ailments, injuries, or a decline in fitness can keep your older horse from having a serious or prolonged setback. That means less worry for you and a better quality of life for your old friend.

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