

*Did you hear the news? Dr. Alex is Acupuncture Certified!*



We are proud to announce that Dr. Ciuffitelli completed the Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians (MAV) program in partnership with the Colorado Veterinary Medical Association and is a Certified Acupuncturist. She is now accepting patients for acupuncture treatment. Please call the office to schedule an appointment.

**Acupuncture:**

Acupuncture in both animals and humans is a practice that dates back to 650 B.C. It is defined as the stimulation of specific points on the body for a therapeutic effect. Acupuncture points can be found following specific nerves, blood vessels, and lymphatics as well as at “trigger points” within muscles and fascia. Stimulation at these points helps to elicit both a local and global effect on the body and helps to relieve pain and improve blood flow, muscle and organ function.

Acupuncture has been shown to be effective in the following conditions:

- Musculoskeletal problems: muscle soreness, back pain, osteoarthritis, degenerative joint disease, neck pain
- Various neurologic disorders
- Other chronic conditions: anhidrosis, inflammatory airway disease, cough, uveitis, geriatric weakness, skin problems
- Performance enhancement and prevention of disease

Treatments usually take about one hour and include a comprehensive physical exam allowing us to tailor the acupuncture treatment specifically to your horse and his/her condition. The number of treatments needed/recommended is based on the severity and duration of the condition. A single treatment may be enough for an acute condition, and usually a series of 3-10 treatments can resolve a chronic problem. Some degenerative conditions may need monthly treatments to show a consistent effect.

## ***Did you know: East Coast Equine has a fully equipped Laboratory?***

### **In-House Lab Complete Blood Count & Chemistry with Fibrinogen (CBC/Chem):**

ECEVS has the ability to run CBC/Chem in-house. This allows ECEVS rapid turnaround for blood results, diagnosis and possible treatment. Blood testing is commonly used to help diagnose illness or injury in horses. It can also help determine the state of your horse's health during regular physical exam visits. Although a CBC or a chemistry profile can be performed separately, these tests are frequently done at the same time; when the results are interpreted together, they provide a good overview of many of the body's functions. Your veterinarian will combine test result information with physical exam findings, medical history, and other information to assess your horse's health status and determine if additional testing should be recommended. CBC/Chem test results tell a veterinarian what is going on in the horse's bloodstream at the time the blood was drawn. What is in a CBC/Chem you might ask or what is my veterinarian looking for? Red Blood cells, white blood cells, serum, and platelets counts are the 5 blood components that a veterinarian will look at. The numbers, shapes, and sizes of blood components can tell a veterinarian if a horse is possibly anemic, losing blood, is dehydrated or fighting an infection. The Chemistry profile is a panel of tests that analyzes organ function (kidney, liver, etc).

### **iStat:**

iStat is a portable handheld clinical analyzer that can provide results in 2-3 minutes. It delivers accurate blood-gas, electrolyte, chemistry, and hematology results with just a few drops of blood. With the iStat unit ECEVS can obtain results, diagnose, discuss results with clients, and begin treatment immediately at the point-of-care.

### **SAA Test:**

SAA or Serum Amyloid A is a biomarker protein that is produced in the liver when inflammation caused by an infection is present. SAA serves as a marker of inflammation that increases and decreases quickly giving real-time information using a blood test. In normal horses, SAA is found in very low levels and is not secreted until inflammation from infection occurs. At the first instance of infection SAA levels rise immediately. This response is faster than most complete blood counts and fibrinogen. It is extremely sensitive to onset, duration, and the end of an infection. SAA levels can be followed to see the response to treatment and can indicate whether or not the treatment is effective. SAA can detect the presence of infection allowing for earlier treatment, monitoring effectiveness of treatment, and when to end a treatment. All of this can be done immediately at point-of-care.

We expect that these changes will aid us in providing exceptional equine healthcare. Thank you for your continued support.

East Coast Equine Veterinary Service