

Happy New Year from the ECEVS Team!

ECEVS is offering the following specials January 1 -February 29, 2016



Acupuncture Special: Buy 2 Acupuncture Sessions get one 50% off! That is a 17% discount for 3 sessions and a \$63 savings!! Special valid only on 3 session pre-paid package from January 1 through February 29, 2016!

Call the office to schedule an appointment! Beat the spring rush and have your Coggins pulled the same day!



Dental Special: Dental Float Special valid January 1-February 29th 2016 only!!! Call the office for more info. An oral exam should be an essential part of an annual examination by a veterinarian. Every dental exam provides the opportunity to perform routine preventative dental care as well. The end result is a healthier, more comfortable horse. Beyond the comfort and good health of your horse, there are other benefits to proper dental care. Your horse will consume feed more efficiently with less spillage or waste and may perform better and live longer. Read the article below to learn about Hypercementosis an equine dental disease that can be identified with routine dental care.

Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption Hypercementosis? Now that is a Mouthful!

What is EOTRH? Equine Odontoclastic Tooth Resorption Hypercementosis is quite the mouthful to say and is more commonly referred as EOTRH or "hypercementosis". EOTRH is a fairly new dental disease that was first identified in 2004. Since the veterinary profession has become more aware of the disease, the condition has been more frequently diagnosed. EOTRH is most commonly found in aged geldings (15 years+). It is usually gradual in onset and often isn't diagnosed until extensive lesions are present.



EOTRH is very painful and primarily affects the incisors and canine teeth. In this disease the body starts to resorb (or dissolve) the affected teeth. The teeth then fight back and try to regain strength by laying down more calcified tissue (cementum) on the tooth roots. This gives the affected teeth a bulbous appearance around the roots. The cementum that the teeth are producing is not very strong and the

teeth sometimes become loose, fractured, or fall out. The teeth become infected as the tooth roots continue to degrade. This can sometimes present with small red dots visible above the gum line or even small pimple-like draining tracts.

What are the signs of ETORH? Common symptoms of ETORH include: inability to grasp treats, resistance to bridling and speculum placement, difficulty chewing, decreased appetite for grazing, resistance or irritability when being ridden, weight loss, fractured or missing teeth, and a bulbous, red or recessed appearance to the gums. Many horses are stoic and show no outward signs of pain.

How is ETORH Diagnosed? During routine dental examinations your veterinarian will look for signs of ETORH such as reddening of gums, packing of feed material between teeth, and a fractured or missing tooth. Radiographs are the only way to definitively diagnose ETORH. Radiographs will show abnormalities under the gum including resorptive lesions, areas where the tooth has dissolved, and a bulbous appearance to the tooth root. Radiographs also allow the veterinarian to determine the number of teeth affected.

Treatment of Affected Teeth: The only proven treatment is to extract the affected teeth. The number of teeth extracted is entirely related to the stage of the disease. If an early diagnosis is made, there may only be 1-4 teeth affected. As the disease becomes more progressive, all of the upper and/or lower incisors may be affected. If all of these teeth are severely affected, there is no good clinical reason to leave any of them in place.

What to Expect Post-Extraction: The post-operative typically includes pain medication and antibiotics. The surgical sites should be rinsed with warm water or a warm antimicrobial rinse (0.12% chlorhexidine or very dilute betadine) twice a day. These horses go right back to eating after surgery, even after having all of their incisors extracted. Riding is fine once the incision has healed. It is recommended not to ride with a bit for 2-4 weeks following the procedure and you will find you have a much happier riding partner! Horses are much more comfortable and happier after the extractions. Many owners report that they didn't realize how much pain their horse was in until they see a positive change in the horse's personality after the surgery. They can even go back to grazing; as they learn to use their lips to tear the grass.