



Steinbeck Country  
Equine Clinic

TIM G. EASTMAN, DVM, DACVS

ALEXANDRA EASTMAN, DVM,  
MS

MATT DURHAM, DVM

ERIC DAVIS, DVM, DACVS,  
DACVIM

WADE TENNEY, DVM

ERIN MATERN, DVM

NORA GREINAGER, VMD

# STEINBECK COUNTRY EQUINE CLINIC NEWSLETTER



## DR. WADE TENNEY JOINS STEINBECK EQUINE

In September of 2006, Steinbeck Equine was lucky enough to have its newest permanent veterinarian join the practice. Dr. Tenney did his undergraduate work at Cornell where in addition to his studies, he played on the polo team all four years. A 1997 graduate of Colorado State University, Dr. Tenney worked at Littleton Large Animal Hospital for three years which included a one year internship program. After leaving

Littleton he worked at B.W. Furlong and Associates in New Jersey where he focused on general practice with a special interest in reproduction and nuclear scintigraphy. Dr. Wade Tenney comes to the central coast after completing a one year ultrasound fellowship at UC Davis. Dr. Tenney had job offers from a number of prominent hospitals across the country and we feel very fortunate that he selected Monterey County to call home.



### In this issue

- Dr. Wade Tenney Joins SCEC
- Acupuncture at SCEC

#### Newsorthy Notes

#### New Equipment at SCEC

#### Treatment option for Navicular Disease

#### EHV-1 AND EVA Update on Emerging Diseases

#### Intern Update

## ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENTS AVAILABLE FOR SCEC HORSES

For the past year Steinbeck Country Equine has facilitated acupuncture treatments for our clients performed by the certified veterinary acupuncturist Dr. Susan Parry. Dr. Parry is based in Sacramento and is available on a monthly basis. We have been so pleased with the results that we have encouraged Dr. Erin Matern to attend the Medical Acupuncture for Veterinarians course at Colorado State University. The 140-hour continuing education program for veterinarians and qualified veterinary students is specifically geared toward scientifically oriented veterinarians who want and need to know how acupuncture really works. Teaching acupuncture in this way upgrades the level of discourse and improves the doctors' ability to make meaningful strides in acupuncture research, practice, and education. The course is taught in four monthly segments. Upon completion of the course later this spring Dr. Matern will be a certified veterinary acupuncturist.



## TWO OLD DISEASES MAKING NEWS IN THE EQUINE INDUSTRY

### EHV-1

There have been some recent cases of the neurologic form of Equine Herpes Virus, also known as Rhino or EHV-1, which have caused considerable concern for horse shows and racetracks around the country. EHV-1 causes upper respiratory infections in young horses and abortion in pregnant mares, it can also cause a severe neurological disease that affects the horse's brain and spinal cord and may result in paralysis and death. The neurological symptoms are rare and include ataxia (weakness) that can progress to the inability to stand, lower leg swelling, the inability to urinate or pass manure, urine dribbling, and reduced tail tone. These symptoms can also occur in other neurological diseases such as rabies, EPM, and West Nile Virus infections, so it is important that a veterinarian examine the animals as soon as possible.

Until recently, supportive care (anti-inflammatory drugs, fluids to maintain hydration, and slinging of horses that are unable to stand) was the only treatment option. However, recent advances in antiviral therapy have provided another treatment tool in the form of Valacyclovir an antiviral drug originally formulated to treat human herpes viruses. This medication has shown some encouraging results in decreasing the time frame and severity of the disease.

It is thought that most horses are infected with the virus during the first year of life and that the disease reactivates when the animal is stressed or re-exposed. Vaccination protocols are aimed at keeping the immune system "geared-up" to eliminate the virus quickly when it enters or re-enters the blood stream. Strict isolation of infected horses and vaccine protocols for other horses are an important feature of prevention. Immune modulators (agents intended to stimulate the immune system) such as Zylexis are also gaining popularity for preventive use prior to stressful situations such as shipping or prior to exposing animals to new populations of horses such as at horse shows or racetracks.



### EVA



As the 2007 breeding season gets under way, many stallion and mare owners are surprised to be asked about their horse's EVA status. In the wake of an outbreak of Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA), which occurred in Quarter Horses in 2006, many horse breeders and trainers are rethinking their approach to this disease. Testing and vaccination protocols are becoming stricter in all breeds of horses.

In most instances, horses exposed to EVA exhibit either mild clinical signs of an upper respiratory illness or no apparent clinical signs. Affected horses may have a fever, decreased appetite, depression, nasal discharge, and swelling along the belly, scrotum, mammary gland and/or lower limbs. The mortality rate in adult horses is extremely low and most horses recover without incident. However, in pregnant mares the disease causes abortion after 3 months of gestation.

The virus localizes within the accessory sex glands of stallions where it can continue to be shed with every ejaculate, potentially for the lifetime of the stallion. There is no known cure for the carrier state in stallions. The disease itself does not cause decreased conception rates or abortion in mares bred with semen from infected stallions. The most common mode of transmission is for a mare bred with infected semen to become transiently ill from the virus and transmit the virus to stable mates via nasal secretions. Infected nasal secretions can also be carried on people or equipment in contact with multiple horses. The infection rate for naive mares bred to carrier stallions is 85%-95%. These mares can infect other pregnant mares (abortion is caused in mares more than three months pregnant) and if those mares are infected, they may abort within 1-3 weeks. Exposure to the virus causes abortion in up to 50-75% of non-vaccinated pregnant mares. Mares exposed very late in pregnancy may deliver term foals that may be born alive and die within days of severe pneumonia.

Mares and geldings will stop shedding the virus within three weeks. There is a blood test available to determine if a horse has been exposed to or previously vaccinated for EVA. This test looks for antibodies in the blood to the EVA virus. In mature stallions with a positive antibody titer, semen from 2 or more ejaculates should be tested to determine if the stallion is a chronic shedder. There is only one vaccine currently approved for vaccination of horses against EVA. Because of the increased demand for the vaccine in the wake of the recent outbreak, there is currently a waiting list to get the vaccine in some areas. The vaccine effectively prevents the establishment of the carrier state in stallions and abortion in mares.

More information on EVA is available at the USDA website [www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/equine/eva](http://www.aphis.usda.gov/vs/naahps/equine/eva).

## NEWSWORTHY NOTES

### Overhead X-Ray Machine

Necessity dictated that we replace our over-head x-ray machine when our old machine quit working and was beyond repair. The new machine allows us to take even better images of the abdomen and chest of our larger patients.



### Portable Eklın Digital X-Ray Machine



Digital radiography has more than exceeded our expectations. The increased image range and detail coupled with the ease of sharing images

with others has made the digital system one of the best investments we have made. To keep up with the demand and to be able to share this exciting technology with other area veterinarians, SCEC purchased a second digital X-Ray machine. The new machine is smaller and more portable and has allowed greater flexibility in when and where we are able to provide this valuable service. Our most unique case to date was Dr. Jim Hay's case "Lisa" the elephant.



### Phillips Ultrasound Machine



Steinbeck Equine's new ultrasound machine, a Philips HD11, allows for better and more efficient diagnostics. The digital image is of superior quality, and allows us to archive and access images throughout the hospital. Specialized probes allow for accurate tendon, abdominal, cardiac, ocular, and other imaging. This machine stays very busy with two trained ultrasonographers on staff.

### Dr. Grenager Spends a month in Lexington, KY

As part of her quest for board certification in internal medicine, Dr. Grenager spent the month of February as a visiting doctor at Hagyard Equine Medical Institute in Lexington. The hospital has over 50 full-time veterinarians and the busiest caseload in the country. Visiting during the foaling season, Dr. Grenager is focusing her time in the medicine department learning more about neonatal and perinatal medicine.



### Durham brings Silicosis Information to the AAEP

Our own Dr. Matt Durham and Dr. Coral Armstrong of Los Cochés Animal Hospital garnered national recognition in December. Dr. Durham presented the findings of their original research on silicosis in horses at the American Association of Equine Practitioners meeting in San Antonio.

### West Nile Vaccine- now annual



For the past few years Steinbeck Equine has adhered to the UC Davis recommendations that the West Nile Vaccine be administered twice yearly to our equine population. These recommendations were based on the fact that horses in the US were a naive population. The horses had never before been exposed to the disease and therefore were without any natural immunity to fight exposure. Now that the disease has become more established in CA and our horses have a multi-year vaccine history, the recommendations are being reduced to once yearly. We recommend that the vaccine be administered with the EWT vaccine in the spring to precede the mosquito season. If you have horses traveling to high-risk areas like Texas or Florida during the fall and winter you may want to consider continuing a twice-yearly program.

### SCEC Doctors Write for Equestrian On-Line Magazine

Steinbeck Equine veterinarians contribute a monthly article to the on-line magazine of the Equestrian Network. The articles can be found in the section "Your Horse's Health". The magazine is available free of charge at [www.equestmagazine.com](http://www.equestmagazine.com). Over the past year our doctors have contributed articles on the following topics; Ringbone, Enteroliths, Pigeon Fever, Laminitis, Gastric Ulcers, Estrus Control, Fly Bite Hypersensitivity, Strangles, Wounds, Lameness, Colic, Recurrent Uveitis, and Silicosis.

### New Treatment Option for Navicular Disease

There are several new therapeutic options that have become available over the last few years for arthritis, tendon and ligament injuries, as well as other sport related injuries. One such treatment is Tildren. Tildren is a drug that has been available in Europe for many years to treat navicular disease and has recently become available in the United States to veterinarians who go through special licensure. It is similar to drugs used to treat osteoporosis in people. With Tildren use, the activity of the osteoclasts, cells that cause the destructive changes we see on X-rays with navicular disease, is suppressed. Apparently, the activity of these cells is very painful and by reducing their activity, many horses become much more comfortable. There are many different treatment protocols being utilized with Tildren but most involve placement of an intravenous (IV) catheter and administration of a large amount of the drug as an IV drip for about an hour. Generally in 2-4 weeks the benefits are beginning to be realized and the effect lasts for approximately six months. Horses may remain sound longer by giving monthly boosters. In addition to navicular disease, many veterinarians use Tildren to treat horses with hock pain. Many lameness diagnosticians feel that Tildren has been the first major breakthrough in the treatment of navicular disease in horses.



## INTERN UPDATE

Out of nearly 100 internship programs, we are proud to announce that our internship program was tied with one other hospital to be ranked the best in the country. As such, it is one of the most sought after internships in the country. As a result, we have always been fortunate enough to hire our top candidates.



By now, most of you have had the chance to meet our current Intern Dr. Jennifer Lauzze. Dr. Lauzze began her one-year internship in July 2006. Dr. Lauzze, an Ohio State University graduate, is a native of Los Gatos. We hope her California connection will keep her in the area when her internship concludes.

For the 2007-2008 year we have hired two UC Davis graduates. Kacie Wells and Nick Carlson will join the practice in July 2007. Both come from the university highly recommended and we are excited to have them join the practice.



2003-2004 Intern Dr. Corbett Post, his wife Jana and 2 ½ year-old daughter Maggie welcomed twins Charles Corbett, III (Chap) 4lbs. 4oz and Whit Ellison, 1 lb. 15oz, into the world on November 17, 2006. Both boys are now home and doing well.



**Drs. Alex and Tim Eastman are overjoyed to announce the birth of Ashton Gerock Eastman**

### Fundraiser For Chuck Kolb A Great Success!



Our Fundraiser for Chuck Kolb was a great success! The event, which took place at SCEC on April 1, 2007, was intended to help offset costs associated with Chuck's fight against prostate cancer. The cancer was discovered during a routine physical exam when Chuck was applying for medical insurance. Now considered a pre-existing condition, insurance benefits are not available to pay for the treatment. Costs for initial treatment are estimated at over \$80,000. While the event is over you can still contribute to Chuck's medical fund. Contact our reception staff for details!



15881 Toro Hills Ave.  
Salinas, CA 93908

Presorted Standard  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Salinas, CA.  
Permit No. 446

**SAVE THE DATE: HORSEMAN'S DAY IS SEPT. 22, 2007**