

## Join us for a Seminar!



There can be a bit of controversy about introducing your horse to pasture in the spring time. What is the best way for your horse? What is the best way for the health of the pasture?

Spring time is the time of year all horse people are waiting for! Its the time where horses shed and green grass grows – and its time to start thinking about putting your horses out to the pastures.

### Introducing Your Horse to Summer Grazing

March 24<sup>th</sup> – 7 pm – 8pm

Heartland Animal Hospital  
1220 E Frontage Road  
Owatonna, MN 55060

Join us for light refreshments, door prizes, and great discussion!

RSVP by March 24<sup>th</sup> to (507)214-7387

Look forward to seeing you soon!

There are a few things you need to know about introducing your horses to pasture – both for the health of your horses and for the health of your pasture. Join us as we discuss pasture management and introducing your horse to pasture for the spring season. We'll talk about weight management, introducing your horse after the long winter to grass, and what to watch for health wise.

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Heartland Animal Hospital Newsletter

Spring 2015

### Tips and Tricks Around The Barn

#### Wood Chewing?

Horses that are bored will commonly chew on wood.

The best preventative that I have found Irish Spring Bar Soap! Rub the bar soap directly on the wood that is being chewed – the strong smell along with the soapy favor will deter most wood chewers.

The soap must be reapplied weekly or after rain, but it is inexpensive and effective!

# Healthy Horse

## current topics >>>

### Think Spring!

As the month of February marks the coldest days on record, I am thinking ahead to the warm days of summer. As I am typing this, we are experiencing a March Blizzard Warning. I am hoping those forecasters are wrong and its an early spring!

In this newsletter, you'll find some updates on horse healthcare and some great tips around the barn. Here at Heartland Animal Hospital, we are constantly striving to be on the leading edge of technology and medical therapies for your horses. I attend equine veterinary continuing education each year to stay current on both medicine and surgery techniques for your horse. We can take digital radiographs (xrays) at your farm, provide diagnostic ultrasound, power floating, digital coggins and really enjoy working with horses.

I am looking forward to visiting with you about any horse healthcare questions you have this spring. Be sure to check out our regional call days to give your pocketbook a little bit of a break.

Check us out on Facebook or on the web at [heartlandanimalvets.com](http://heartlandanimalvets.com)!

## Equine Herpes Virus-1

Equine Herpes Virus-1 (EHV-1) is a contagious disease that has made a come back in Minnesota again this spring. Here is what you need to know about this virus and keeping your horse safe.

Equine Herpes Virus-1(EHV-1) has reappeared in Minnesota this spring. This virus has four forms: respiratory, abortions, weak or dead foals, and neurological disease

Fever is the most common first clinical sign of EVH-1, followed by coughing and nasal discharge. Abortions usually occur in late pregnancy, with not warning signs. Neurologic Disease – also known as Equine Herpesvirus Myeloencephalopathy (EHM) typically occurs 8-12 days after the fever. Clinical signs are hind-end weakness and in-coordination, urine dribbling or inability to urinate, and a horse that is down and unable to stand.

By 2 years of age, almost all horses have been infected with EHV-1. The initial exposure generally occurs in foals from contact with their dams. The virus can then become latent, or inactive, in the horse's body, setting up a carrier state that is lifelong.

Horses of any age that are carriers of EHV-1 do not show any external signs of the disease when the virus is in the latent form.

The virus can be reactivated during times of stress: long distance hauling, strenuous exercise, or weaning.

The most common way for EHV-1 to spread is by direct horse-to-horse contact. This virus is shed from infected horses via the respiratory tract or through direct or indirect contact with an infected

aborted fetus and fetal membranes. It is important to realize that EHV-1 can also be spread indirectly-objects can be contaminated with the virus. Practice good bio-security and do not allow your horses to share feed or water buckets, change your clothes after visiting stables, and do not share tack or grooming supplies. Vaccination can help lessen the virus shedding and protect against the respiratory form of EHV-1.

- EHV-1 has four forms:**
- Respiratory**
- Abortions**
- Neonatal Death**
- Neurological**



Looking forward to seeing you soon!