

Stable Sheet



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BEAUTY IS MORE THAN SKIN DEEP

It was such a cold, wet fall that a few of our pastured geldings had some rain rot hiding under those plush coats! Simply running a hand over their topline didn't reveal the problem; it required really getting fingers that weren't wearing gloves down to the skin to find it. While the boys have a shed, they often forgo the shelter to run around and play in the mud! It doesn't take long for rain rot to set up “camp” when the conditions are ripe for it. On a horse with a winter coat, raised lumps or clumps of “paintbrush-like” clusters of hair are a combination of bacteria, dead skin cells, and pus which can then propagate and cause rain rot to spread in a cycle of inflammation.

Rain rot is a bacterial infection of the skin that thrives in warm, moist conditions. You wouldn't think that 33 degree rain is “warm”, but the skin of the horse IS warm. The offending bacteria, *Dermatophilus congolensis*, is a normal resident of the environment and the horse's skin. However, when the skin is compromised by moisture (think waterlogged, mushy, then chapped skin) it allows for the bacteria to overcome the skin's natural defenses and grow. As the bacteria reproduce, they send tentacle-like growths down into the healthy layers of skin below the surface causing more inflammation.

Mild cases aren't very hard to treat and can even sometimes go away on their own, but treating it

when it is mild is definitely worth doing. If it does progress to something worse, it can be very painful for the horse as well as take away their ability to maintain temperature in the winter. Especially if you want to ride your horse in the winter, having his back be pain free is a major concern!

We weren't set up to give anti-bacterial baths right away when we found the rain rot, but we didn't want to wait to treat either. There are many products on the market, it just needs to be one that will work on bacteria and that you and your horse will tolerate! We looked through the collection of things we had on hand to use on horses with occasional grease-heel or scratches (similar skin infection) and decided on Blue Stuff. It is a thick lotion that's soothing on skin. We used a generous amount and really worked it into the coats of the 2 boys getting it really down to the crud. A day or two later we were able to warm up the wash stall and used an antibacterial soap (we used chlorhexidine scrub) to get to those topline . I was pleasantly surprised to find that the crust lifted easily and with minimal discomfort to the horses. One of the young boys got a minor repeat of the same treatment (lotion, then bath) mostly because he ran out of patience in the wash stall with the first bath. Not wanting to push our luck until he started fighting with us, we decided to break his treatment into two days. See **RAIN ROT**, Page 3



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minermatters.com

WELCOME TO THE “FAMILY”!

Congratulations to the newest owners of Heart’s Delight Morgans! 2018 was a good year for match-making of young horses to their chosen people.

Carol Frank was looking for a new carriage driving partner to take the role that her beloved “Rudy” did for so long. Rudy is enjoying his retirement and HD Lily Dale (Equinox Challenge x UVM Valkyrie) fit the bill. Lily spent a few months with Robin and Wilson Groves in Brownsville, VT capping off her training summer with a win at her first outing at GMHA’s August Combined Driving Event with Wilson as whip and Carol the joyful navigator!



HD Lily Dale at GMHA.

When horse shopping, it is always good to bring along a horse-savvy friend that can help see the prospect with a second set of eyes and keep you grounded. Carol Frank brought the manager/owner of her boarding stable with her; Marsha Chavin was also a little interested in a prospect for her program in Nassau, NY and rode along to meet some youngsters. The group of two-year olds was a variety of shapes and talents, but it was HD Times Square (Townshend Rob The Wave x HD Valhalla) that caught her eye and probably her sleeve too... “Peanut” is a very special horse to us here as he was Hallie’s only foal and was orphaned at one week old when we lost Hallie to colic. You can read more about Hallie, Peanut and Kimmy, his generous nurse mare, in past issues of The Stable Sheet. He arrived at Marsha’s in the spring and got right to work; a perfect fit for a smart, sweet, and slightly naughty little guy! We’re excited to watch him grow and bloom under Marsha’s care and training!

“Hello, I am Neville from Bermuda and I’m interested in one of your horses,” was the heavily accented message on my voice mail. He called me back before I could return his call and the rest moved quickly! He had recently lost one of his



Belle at the export broker’s lovely farm in southern NJ where she rested up before boarding a boat a few days later!

old Morgans and wanted to get a young mare to bring along as a driving horse on the island. HD Liberty (Canon x HD Massena) fit the bill and we were off and running! “Belle” was a star as she went through the battery of health tests required to import a horse to Bermuda, but with lots of coordination between vets, export managers, and Lady Luck, Belle boarded a ship near Atlantic City, NJ to end up in beautiful Bermuda! Neville let us know that she landed safely, settled in well and was “even more beautiful than her pictures showed!” We’re pretty sure a field trip to Bermuda to visit Belle might be in order....

It is all about who you know, right? The last sale of 2018 was yet another two-year old, HD Rochester (Canon x Sugarlane Dominique) to Cyndy Mulligan of Greer, SC. A long-time Morgan admirer and having owned several throughout the years, Cyndy was seeking a new dressage partner. Fun, curious, handsome,



HD Times Square



HD Rochester

sound, sane and athletic were all qualities she was seeking in a prospect. She had contacted Paradise Morgans about some horses she’d seen promoted on Facebook and they directed her to the Heart’s Delight sales list. Calls, pictures, videos and a visit happened quickly then a squeaky clean bill of health on the pre-purchase exam and days later “Chester” is headed to warmer climates with his new person! Cyndy had been looking for a long time, so we all took it as a sign that this was the right horse for her when the stars lined up so beautifully and so fast. Chester’s big brother HD Kingston and little brother HD Hamilton are cheering him on we’re sure!

— Karen Lassell
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THE ABCs OF A PPE

“Safe travels Chester!” we wished as the two year old gelding, HD Rochester, bravely loaded the air-ride trailer to begin his big journey to South Carolina. Chester’s new owner knew that horse-shopping can be a challenge, but even once finding her new partner she kept her wits about her. She knew the next steps to take before excitedly hooking up the trailer; getting Chester a pre-purchase exam by a veterinarian. Almost always, the pre-purchase exam is done at the cost of the prospective buyer.

Pre-purchase exams are a very important aspect of horse shopping and help you make the most informed decision about a prospective horse. The evaluation is certainly not a guarantee, but it can provide very important insights into your potential partner.

There are a few elements that go into a standard pre-purchase exam. Usually the veterinarian begins with a basic health evaluation, which includes taking the horse’s temperature, pulse, and respiration, examining overall body condition, and going over the health history. This may involve re-examining an old injury or discussing the horse’s past medical issues with the current owner. The next segment of tests the veterinarian focuses on are lameness evaluations, which include soft tissue palpations and gait analysis. The veterinarian will evaluate the horse’s movement at the walk and trot in a straight



Charlotte poses Chester for conformation photos.

line as well as all three gaits on a lunge line. Being able to view the horse’s movement helps show any lameness or abnormal movement that may affect the horse in its future career. Flex tests are the imperfect science of mildly stressing a joint by holding it for a minute or so in a flexed position, then asking the horse to jog off immediately after releasing the hold. If the horse has any soreness in the joint that wasn’t seen in the basic gait analysis, it might be more likely to show up in a flex test. A “positive” response to a flex test could signal a problem worth further investigation.

The prospective owner’s goals for a new horse and sometimes their past history with other horses can determine how intensive the pre-purchase exam may be. They may only want to know the general issues the horse may have, or they may want to know every detail and flaw of the horse. If you do want to know everything about your future partner, you may opt

into more diagnostic tests such as radiographs (x-rays), ultrasounds, or bloodwork that can help determine less obvious pre-existing conditions. It is important to be present and share your exam goals and expectations for the horse with the vet before starting the exam. If you are unable to physically be at the barn during the exam, definitely be “on call” to discuss any additional advanced exam components, how much those would cost, and if you have a stopping point during the exam that would make you decline to purchase the horse.

Veterinarians performing pre-purchase exams, and smart ones at that, make a point to never “pass” or “fail” a horse. They instead offer an overall picture of the horse they are examining on that specific day. Some may choose to discuss their findings with the future owner’s home veterinarian to get everyone on the same page about what this horse has to offer and may help plan for future veterinarian care.

With all this in mind, Chester’s future owner ordered a few extra tests to confirm her expectations that they would be perfect partners; and what do you know? It paid off! His cute face will be missed around here, but Chester is now happily settling into his new home ready to embark on a career as a dressage horse.

— Charlotte Cilio, *Equine Intern*
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RAIN ROT, Continued from Page 1

If your horses share grooming tools, it wouldn’t be a bad idea to give those a wash in some of the same antibacterial scrub or let them soak in a mild bleach solution and rinse well. The winter coat or blankets if you use them can hide many things until they’re really turning into a challenge- be sure to take your gloves off and really get your fingers down in there to feel for lumps, bumps, crud as well as to make sure your horse is maintaining a good body condition score.

— Karen Lassell
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SAVE THE DATE: EQUIDAY IS MARCH 16, 2019!

EquiDay 2019 will be held Saturday, March 16, 2019. This daylong symposium on horse topics will launch the spring season in the North Country. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. for FREE registration and refreshments. The speaker program begins at 9:30 a.m. and continues until 3 pm and concludes with a door prize drawing.



Dr. Jane Manfredi, a researcher and professor at Michigan State University's school of Veterinary Medicine, will speak on two topics. The first will be on Equine Metabolic Syndrome including aspects of very recent research that included Heart's Delight Morgans and the second will cover Equine Rehabilitation - the What, When, and Why of Various Treatments. We're still rounding out the program with a few more speakers, but we promise it will be fun and something for everyone! Watch Facebook and whminer.org for updates as we have them.

No matter the weather, the show will go on! EquiDay is held in the Joseph C. Burke Education and Research Center building (pictured at right), 586 Ridge Road, just west of exit 41, I-87.

For more information, visit the website: www.whminer.org, or contact Karen Lassell at 518-846-7121, ext. 120 or lassell@whminer.com.



CONSIDER JOINING THE NEW YORK STATE HORSE COUNCIL

The New York State Horse Council (NYSHC) is a 501 (c)(3) non profit organization. The NYSHC is your official clearing house and representation for information on horses and horse-related activities within or affecting the state of New York. We have been proudly serving the equine community since 1966. When you join or renew your New York State Horse Council membership, you are supporting our mission to represent all breeds and disciplines; owners, riders, drivers; and the welfare of our equines. We create a strong, unified voice for all interests toward the preservation of a future for horses in New York State.



Join online or download forms at www.nyshc.org. Membership is a calendar year: join now to get the full benefits in 2019!

Membership Benefits include:

- A voice in Albany and updates on legislation which effects the equine industry
- Option for inexpensive insurance - Equisure Excess Personal Liability of \$1,000,000
- Attendance to New York State Horse Council Meetings
- NYSHC Business/Club/Farm/Organization Directory by Category & Name & NYSHC Trails Guide
- NY Horse Magazine Online via Member Area and a Subscription to MANE STREAM publication.
- Discounts at Nationwide Businesses and Services
- Discounts at NYSHC sponsored Clinics and Events
- Eligibility to participate in the NYSHC Ride and Drive program
- NYSHC News - equine related information & events

EQUINE INTERNSHIP PAVES WAY FOR CAREERS OF ALL TYPES

It's been just more than 10 years since Claire Gebben wrapped up her yearlong equine internship at Miner Institute, but she says, she still thinks about Miner frequently. "Miner will always hold a piece of my heart. It's an amazingly special place," Claire said.

Claire first came to Miner as part of the summer experience program in 2007, just before her senior year studying animal science at the University of Vermont. She returned as a year-long intern after graduating in 2008. She currently works as a software developer at SmartPak — a company that specializes in equine supplements. "If someone had told me back in 2008 when I was trying to figure out what my future would be, that IT was in my future, I probably would have laughed. It was most certainly not my plan, but it's been an adventure," Claire said.

Claire moved to Massachusetts and started working for SmartPak right after she completed her internship at Miner. She spent two years in customer care and then moved to the software quality assurance team where she tested the company's eCommerce site and warehouse systems to make sure that everything worked. In 2016 she joined the software development team. She works on the website and other internal systems, she said.



Claire driving HD Saranac while an intern at Miner.

"After leaving Miner, I felt so much more prepared than I think a lot of people starting out do. Problem solving, thinking on my feet, flexibility, and being able to self manage are just a few of the skills Miner helped me develop. Of course the horse experience and knowledge have helped, but even more valuable to me were the general life skills that I still apply daily, even in IT," Claire said, adding that she would absolutely recommend the program to other students. "My time at Miner was so valuable."

Claire says she loved every aspect of the summer program so declaring a favorite component would be challenging. She had no trouble choosing a favorite Miner Morgan, though. "HD Eagle Bay, "Scout" was my pony love during my yearlong internship," Claire recalled. "I had the pleasure, and challenge, of

starting him under saddle, and he always had me laughing. He loved the snow, and would often try to "drift" into the snow banks while we were walking around the farm property." Claire also recalled that on a visit to Miner a few years after completing her internship, she took Scout for a ride. "In true Scout fashion, he stepped sideways into a white cone that was in the ring, and managed to get his foot stuck inside of it. He very patiently waited while we had to cut the cone to get it off his foot," Claire said.

For Claire, working at Miner was like a dream job, she said, citing the access to horses, living on a farm, participating in the breeding program and working with broodmares and foals and horses at various stages of training as job perks. "Miner also taught me how valuable having a great work family is. Even though there were plenty of days largely spent working on my own, I always knew there were knowledgeable, caring people somewhere on the farm that could help if something came up. Having a great culture and caring team is not something you find in every business, but now that I have experienced it, it's something I will always hold as a priority."

— Rachel Dutil
dutil@whminer.com

Are you a college undergraduate looking for a PAID summer internship?

The Summer Experience in Equine Management may be for you! The 2019 program runs from May 20 to August 16. Application materials are due Feb. 15, 2019.

Learn more about the program at <http://whminer.org/education/summer-experience-in-equine-managment.php>

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOUR MARE IS EXPECTING: TOP 10 WAYS TO BE PREPARED

— Dr. Toby Pinn, DVM, DACVIM

1. Your mare will require a series of vaccines prior to giving birth to her foal. Vaccination at months 5, 7 and 9 of gestation to prevent abortion from Equine Herpes Virus. Pre-foaling spring vaccine boosters should be given 1 month prior to birth. These vaccines boost the antibody levels in the mare's first milk (colostrum), which strengthens the foal's naïve immune system.
2. Prepare a warm, dry and clean foaling stall that is bedded deeply in straw. Allow your mare to become familiar with this stall 4-6 weeks prior to foaling.
3. Create a monitoring plan for your foal's birth. We recommend the birth be quietly observed in case any problems arise. Monitoring options might include a webcam or frequent night checks.
4. Know the stages of equine labor, and when to call the vet.
Stage 1 – This is the preparatory stage of labor which can last between 30 minutes and 4 hours. During this stage uterine contractions begin and the mare may begin to show signs of discomfort (flank watching, tail swishing, frequent urination, sweating, laying down and getting up frequently).
Stage 2 – This stage begins when the mare's water breaks and the foal is expelled. This stage should last no more than 30 minutes and concludes with the birth of the foal. If the mare is not making steady progress delivering her foal over a 30 minute period, call your vet.
Stage 3 – This stage begins after the foal is born and involves passing of the placenta (the membranes lining the uterus). This should occur within 3 hours. If the placenta is not passed within 3 hours, it is considered retained and can cause severe uterine infection (metritis). Call the vet if the placenta is not passed within 3 hours of the foal's birth.
5. Know how to monitor your foal during its first hours of life; if the foal does not meet the following time points, call your vet.
 - The foal should stand within 2 hours of birth
 - The foal should successfully begin to nurse the mare's colostrum (first antibody-rich milk) within 2 hours of birth.
 - First urination should be observed by 12 hours after birth
 - First manure (meconium) should be passed by 8-12 hours after birth. The meconium is usually dark in color and firm, and should be followed by orange, pasty manure.
6. Be prepared with a stash of clean towels to dry your foal with after birth and have dilute betadine solution on hand to dip the foal's umbilicus for prevention of umbilical infection following birth.
7. Be prepared to collect and store the mare's placenta in a garbage bag or clean container for examination by your vet during the foal's first health check. If you notice large tears in the placenta or pieces of the placenta missing, call your vet immediately.
8. The foal's antibody level (IgG) will need to be measured 24 hours after birth. This test can be performed on the farm by your veterinarian. Foals with low IgG levels may require a plasma transfusion to provide adequate immunity.
9. Schedule a newborn foal exam the day after your foal is born to assess his/her health and IgG level. Your vet will look for obvious abnormalities that may require treatment, such as umbilical hernia, congenital eye abnormalities, contracted/lax tendons or a heart murmur.
10. Have a broad spectrum dewormer (ivermectin) on hand to be given to your mare the day after foaling because mares can pass the parasite *Strongyloides westeri* to their foals through their milk.

Please don't hesitate to contact Vermont Large Animal Clinic with any further questions regarding your pregnant mare or newborn foal. Article reprinted with permission from VLAC, 1054 Lake Rd., Milton, VT 802-893-6800



Learn more about the Heart's Delight Morgan Horses
and view our sales list
<http://whminer.org/equine/sales-list.php>



photo by Christopher Crosby Morris



UVM Morgan Horse Farm's 31st Annual Equine Reproduction Workshop

April 5th and 6th, 2019

Lectures and
Workshop by:

**The W. H.
Miner Institute**

**Balanced
Rhythms, Inc.**

**Meadowbrook
Equine, LLC**

**UVM Animal
Science
Department**

**UVM Morgan
Horse Farm**



Learn the art and science of equine reproduction through two days of lectures and hands-on demonstrations. From the ethics of breeding, mare and stallion management, breeding techniques & training methods, to foaling and neonatal care, this workshop is a thorough education and valuable experience.

All levels of experience welcome.

Photo © Tracey Buyce Photography

(802) 388-2011 **uvm.morgans@uvm.edu**

for further information and registration

The registration fee of \$260 includes- Workshop, materials and meals. Door prizes are awarded throughout the workshop. Spaces are limited to 25 participants.

GET READY FOR SPRING

Mid-Winter Driving Conference

Feb. 16, 2019

Verdoy Fire Department
Latham, NY

*Course Designing As it relates to the
Basic Training of Driving Horses*

Richard Nicoll and Martha Hanks-Nicoll

The Non Exact Science of Bits

Jeff Morse, Trainer and Chairman of the
Pleasure Driving Committee

*Heart's Delight Morgans: How They
Breed, Start, and Use These Horses*

Karen Lassell, Equine Manager at the
Miner Institute, Chazy, NY

Riding the Driving Horse

Marsha Chavin, Trainer, Dressage Rider,
and Driver specializing in starting the
young horse to move correctly and relaxed

**More information can be found at
www.saratogadriving.com or at
www.whminer.org.**

ANIMAL CARE AND USE COMMITTEE AT MINER INSTITUTE

All institutions (private and public) that conduct research with animals are required to have an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC) whose role is to review and approve or disapprove protocols and other proposed activities related to animal care and use in research and teaching. Fortunately, the type of research we conduct at Miner Institute is solely with agricultural animals (no lab rats here...maybe a few barn mice!) and the research itself is to benefit the productivity, health and well-being of these animals. The number of animals being used and procedures to be performed must be justified to the committee through a detailed form. All IACUC must be comprised of at least 5 members: 1) a scientist who has experience with research and teaching involving agricultural animals; 2) an animal or dairy scientist who has training and experience in the management of agricultural animals; 3) a veterinarian who has training and experience in agricultural animal medicine; 4) a person whose primary concerns are in an area outside of science; and 5) a person who is not affiliated with the institution and who is not a family member of an individual affiliated with the institution, representing the general community interests in the proper care and treatment of animals. The committee inspects Miner Institute's facilities twice per year and investigates concerns, complaints, or reports of noncompliance involving agricultural animals at the facility. This committee has the power to suspend an activity involving our animals and can make recommendations regarding the development and implementation of policies and procedures to facilitate, support, and monitor the humane and appropriate use of animals in agricultural research and teaching as well as any other aspect of the agricultural animal care programs at Miner Institute. In 2018, Miner Institute's IACUC approved 7 research projects conducted with our dairy cows and 1 research project conducted with our horses. If you have any questions about our research activities, please feel free to contact me: ballard@whminer.com. If you have any concerns that you would like brought to the attention of our IACUC, please contact: Amy Bedard - bedard@whminer.com.

— Katie Ballard, Director of Research

The William H. Miner Agricultural Research Institute
1034 Miner Farm Road
P.O. Box 90
Chazy, NY 12921

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*Happy Holidays
and Best Wishes for
2019 from everyone at
Miner Institute*

Learn more about the Miner Morgans at www.whminer.org/equine.html