



Brevard County
3695 Lake Drive
Cocoa, FL 32926
321-633-1702
321-633-1890 Fax
<http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu>

Timely Topics for Equine Care: Anhidrosis and Winter Colic

As the last days of summer pass us by, equine owners need to be conscience of their horse's health for the hot temperatures that have passed and for the cool temperatures that are to come. With a longer than normal summer heat lasting into November, anhidrosis has become a concern for many owners while the threat of winter, and colic, looms in the distance.

Anhidrosis is characterized by a horse that is unable to produce a normal quantity of sweat. The concern with anhidrosis is that if a horse fails to sweat it can lead to heat stress, followed by collapse, convulsion, or possible death. This condition affects horses across the States but tends to be more prevalent in some southern states, such as Florida. Veterinarians are able to perform tests in order to determine if a horse has this condition, but it is even more evident when an animal does not sweat during hot and humid days after a workout and continues to breathe heavily for an extended period of time after it should have cooled off. There is no definitive evidence on why horses maintain this condition or any type of concrete cure. The best advice can be sought through a veterinarian's expertise and by following simple guidelines to make a horse more comfortable. These guidelines include: hose the horse with cold water as needed, limit training and exercise to the coolest parts of the day, and installing fans in the barn and stalls.

As November cools down, the next concern equine owners need to consider is winter colic. Colic can be any abdominal discomfort caused by various factors, such as; parasites, a twisted intestine, changes in routine feeding or food source. In the wintertime, colic possess a larger threat because horses tend to drink less water and their food sources have less moisture in them, leading to the threat of impaction in the intestine. Horses may also have less pasture time and this keeps the threat of colic high if they are not moving around as much to keep food moving in their system. If recognized early, horses can be treated and recover from colic but it is important to talk with your veterinarian ahead of time to prevent colic and call quickly should the horse exhibit systems.

How can you learn more about both these topics? On November 19, 2009, 7-8pm, Brevard County Extension Service, Cocoa, FL, will have a local veterinarian, Dr. Bradley Newman, as a guest speaker to address both these topics. Call (321)633-1702 and ask for Vanessa Spero-Swingle, for more information.

