

We want to thank all of our clients for such a wonderful year! I hope that everyone is staying warm during this cold snap. For any of your companion animal needs, please contact us at 810-648-8230.

Pain Management in the Older Horse

One of the most common problems in our aging horse population is pain management. Most of this pain comes from arthritis but founder or tendon/ligament issues can play a role. Below are a few of the common medications we use to manage pain and there pros and cons of those.

- **Joints supplements**
 - Cosequin ASU as it has been proven to be effective for joint disease.
 - Good for mild arthritis and prevention of arthritis.
 - Does not work on pain receptors, Cosequin ASU just helps promote joint health.
- **NSAIDs-** Equioxx, Phenylbutazone (Bute), Banamine (Flunixin Meglumine)
 - Great for all causes of pain, work directly on pain receptors.
 - Cannot be used if a horse is being shown (tests positive)
 - Bute and Banamine cause an increase in gastric acid production, making an increased risk of gastric ulcers. For this reason unsafe for long term use.
 - Equioxx great for long term management. It is filtered out by the liver and kidneys though so those values need to be monitored.
- **Joint Injections-** Steroids, Hyaluronic Acid, and other biologics.
 - Targeted treatment but only useful for joint pain.
 - Can be used in a horse that is actively competing.
 - Typically works for 3-6 months then often needs repeated.
 - May cause break down of the articular cartilage.

If you would like to discuss pain management in your horse feel free to reach out to us!



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Rat Poison Risk in Your Pets

In 2008, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated that by 2015, all consumer-marketed rodenticides had to meet specific regulations designed to reduce rodenticide exposure to children, wildlife and pets. What does this mean to you?

- All new poisons no longer contain a product which decreases animals ability to clot their blood.
- The new toxins cause neurologic and cardiac signs which there is no antidote to reverse.
- The new toxins in rat poison cause animals to show signs much quicker, typically in 24-72 hours.

Its best to prevent your pet from any exposure to these toxins. In the event that your animal does get into a toxin follow these steps.

1. Call the clinic for instructions on how to induce vomiting as soon as you notice ingestion.
2. Find the package to look for the active ingredients which were ingested.
3. Call the clinic for further instructions on how to treat your pet based on the active ingredient ingested.



Wishing you a Happy New Year!

Thumb Veterinary Service Companion Animal Team

Up Coming Events

- Equine Spring Dental and Vaccine Special
- Now— June 1st

Visit us online at www.thumbvets.com

60 E. Miller Rd, Sandusky, MI 48471 810.648.8230