

## Emergency Treatment on the Farm

Dr. Midge Leitch, a practitioner from Cochranville, PA, spoke about emergency treatment which can be handled on the farm. She explained that the decision whether to take the animal to a hospital or to attempt treatment on the farm depends on the facilities available and the experience of the veterinarian.

Colic or abdominal distress is one of the most frequent causes for an emergency call to the veterinarian. Some can be treated on the farm. The veterinarian performs a physical exam; basic laboratory tests such as complete blood count, electrolyte check and a peritoneal fluid analysis are helpful in making the diagnosis and determining the cause of the condition. The veterinarian may perform a gastric lavage and give analgesics to make the animal more comfortable. Lavage, a therapeutic measure, also is of help in establishing a diagnosis. Fluids and electrolytes may be administered, orally if it is a mild case, and intravenously if the animal is in severe distress, to achieve stabilization of the patient.

Mares, in addition to having abdominal diseases common to the horse, can be prone to additional problems such as large colon displacement which most frequently can occur between foaling and six weeks thereafter. The displacement may be partial or complete. Uterine torsion can also happen prior to foaling; it is discussed in more detail in Dr. Orsini's presentation.

Newborn foals often develop abdominal trouble. One of the major causes is meconium impaction. It can be relieved by an enema or a laxative. However, one should be cautious with the laxative to avoid diarrhea.

Diarrhea in a young foal can be life-threatening and a prompt determination of the cause is necessary. Foal diarrhea can be due to viral/bacterial infection or milk allergy. Dr. Leitch recommended that treatment with anti-diarrheal medication and fluids be commenced at once to prevent the young animal from becoming dehydrated and weak.

Gastric/duodenal ulcers are a great problem in young foals, particularly if the animal is stressed due to disease. It is important to recognize the early signs such as toothgrinding, salivation, retching and depression. Treatment consists of the administration of anti-ulcer medication and drugs to coat and protect the stomach and determination of the underlying cause of stress.

Young foals are also prone to urinary bladder rupture. Such foals often have a pot-bellied appearance by the third day of life and appear depressed. Tests show electrolyte imbalance. The animals may be able to urinate streams of urine, though they have a small leak in the bladder. Treatment is by surgery.

Complications due to foaling can result in two patients, the mare and the foal. Dystocia can cause

damage to the mare's reproductive tract and sometimes she can suffer a secondary cardiovascular collapse after dystocia. If a mare has been severely stressed during foaling, there is the danger of laminitis occurring. Stressful birth also causes complications for the foal and such animals often are prime candidates for neonatal intensive care. Dr. Leitch recommended that horse breeders keep oxygen on hand for a distressed foal and that they make every effort to keep the young animal warm.

Dr. Leitch briefly discussed musculo-skeletal problems which constitute an emergency. Septic arthritis and osteomyelitis require prompt treatment to prevent permanent damage. Signs are lameness, joint or soft tissue swelling, and septicemia. Treatment consists of joint lavage, systemic antibiotics and in many cases, referral for arthroscopy/curetage. Fractures are another emergency situation. She stressed that the fractured limb needs to be supported by an appropriate bandage and recommended using pillows to create a support bandage. The animal should be referred to a clinic.

**The summaries of the remaining three presentations will appear in the Winter issue. The topics are: *Life-Threatening Complications in the Mare; Serious Injuries to the Athlete; Laminitis.***

## Equine Breeders Short Course

The Georgia and Philip Hofmann Research Center of the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine will conduct a two-day Equine Breeders Short Course on Oct. 7 and 8, 1988 at the School's New Bolton Center campus. This course will cover concepts and practical application of various equine techniques and management arrangements.

The first day of the event will be devoted to the care of the brood mare. Faculty members and clinicians will discuss various aspects of breeding. Topics will include mare anatomy, teasing, behavior problems, embryo transfer, pregnancy detection, the newborn foal, hormone tests.

Sessions on the second day will cover the care of the stallion. Topics discussed will include stallion

anatomy, stallion management, semen laboratory, semen shipping, behavior problems, AV/phantom training, and fertility problems.

Morning sessions each day will consist of lectures. Demonstrations and participation laboratories will be held each afternoon.

The cost for the two-day program is \$450 per person. The fee for each additional person from the same farm is \$375. There is a \$25 early registration discount for reservations received by September 1. Registrations are limited.

For further information and a registration form, please contact the Section of Reproduction, School of Veterinary Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, New Bolton Center, 382 West Street Road, Kennett Square, PA 19348 or call (215) 444-5800, ext. 2220.

Charlton (V'88); Dr. Janet Douglas, Cambridge University-Thouron Scholar; Dr. Robert Fischer, University of Florida; Dr. Jennifer Garber (V'88); Dr. Sandy Perkowski (V'88); Dr. Christopher Smith, University of California; Dr. Kent Sullivan (V'88).

The new residents are: Dr. Mary Boy (V'87), medicine; Dr. Gregory Staller and Dr. Alan Ruggles, surgery; Dr. Fernando Riera, reproduction; Dr. Robin Brock, field service; Dr. Johanna Reimer, cardiology.

Dr. Wendy Freeman, a resident last year at New Bolton Center, has been appointed a lecturer in field service. Two former residents at VHUP were also appointed as lecturers, Dr. John Fyfe as lecturer in medical genetics and Dr. John Speciale as lecturer in neurology/ophthalmology.

The annual Interns and Residents picnic, sponsored by the Bucks-Montgomery, Keystone, Suburban, and Southern New Jersey Veterinary Medical Associations, takes place on September 14, 1988 at the Philadelphia Zoo. Barbeque and picnic food and beverages will be served on the lawn, beginning at 6 p.m.; in case of inclement weather, the event will take place in the reptile house. This annual picnic brings together the residents, interns and faculty members from the School and practitioners from the area associations in an informal setting.

## Welcome

The new residents and interns at VHUP and New Bolton Center began their duties on July 1. The new interns at VHUP are: Dr. Mary Beth Callan (V'88); Dr. Rebecca E. Campbell, Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Della M. Garell, New York State College of Veterinary Medicine; Dr. Darren M. Hawks, University of California; Dr. James E. Hosek, University of Illinois; Dr. Katherine M. James, University of California; Dr. Kyle G. Mathews, University of Wisconsin; Dr. Carlos M. Mongil, Louisiana State University; Dr. Deanna W. Purvis (V'88); Dr. Kenneth W. Simpson, University of Edinburgh.

The new residents at VHUP are: Dr. Kelly G. Akol, Dr. Claire Mainwaring, Dr. Michael Rosenzweig, small animal medicine; Dr. William Saxson, small animal emergency medicine; Dr. David Duclos, dermatology; Dr. Steven Heyman, orthopedic surgery; Dr. Malcolm MacDonald, cardiology; Dr. Katherine Michel, clinical nutrition; Dr. Robert O'Brien, radiology; Dr. David Thomson, soft tissue surgery.

At New Bolton Center the new interns are: Dr. Patricia Blakeslee (V'88), field service; Dr. Carolyn

## Calendar

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| October 7, 8   | Equine Breeders Short Course, New Bolton Center   |
| November 8     | Equine Therapeutics Continuing Education course New Bolton Center   |
| January 25, 26 | Penn Annual Conference Adam's Mark Hotel Philadelphia   |
| January 28     | Your Veterinarian and Your Dog 19th Annual Canine Symposium VHUP, Philadelphia  |
| February 8     | Small Animal Non-Plating Orthopaedics Laboratory Continuing Education course VHUP, Philadelphia   |
| February 22    | Small Animal Spinal Neurosurgery Continuing Education course VHUP, Philadelphia   |
| March 8        | Small Animal Surgical Emergencies Continuing Education course VHUP, Philadelphia  |
| March 29       | Bovine Therapeutics and the Legal Responsibilities of the Practitioner Concerning Drug Residues Continuing Education course New Bolton Center |
| April 5        | Small Animal Anesthesia Continuing Education course VHUP, Philadelphia  |
| April 15       | 12th Annual Feline Fanciers Symposium VHUP, Philadelphia  |
| April 16       | Cat Show Class of 1923 Ice Rink 3130 Walnut Street Philadelphia   |