

Sanitizing & Sterilizing (continued):

water – heat water to 140 – 150 deg F, add salt and stir until dissolved), Iodine wipes, sterile latex examination gloves, “Medi-Swab” alcohol pre-injection swabs.

Bandaging, wraps, etc.:

Old tube socks with some duct tape (makes a great hoof covering to keep dirt out of wounds), clean hand towels or old bath towels cut into squares, ice packs (Rite-Aide carries a soft flexible gel pack that fits nicely around the lower leg), extra long Q-Tips for reaching into deep wounds, lots of co-flex wrap, sterile gauze pads (non-adhering gauze pads), 3M Vetwrap Bandaging Tape, rolls of adhesive tape, half pound roll of cotton, tourniquet, adhesive bandages – ¾ inch, veterinary elastoplast bandage 3 inches wide, Gangee dressings, Jelonet wound dressing, disposable baby diapers (for leg wraps, pressure wraps – can be used as hoof wraps with duct tape), Maxi-pads (more absorbent than gauze, less frequent dressing changes, and will not stick to the wounds), heavy blanket in the event of shock symptoms.

Keep all first aid supplies in containers with tight fitting lids.

References & Information:

Equine vital signs information, emergency horse care information booklet, recommended reading: “How to be Your Own Veterinarian, Sometimes” by Ruth B. James and “Dr. Kellon’s Guide to First Aid for Horses” by El Kellon. Both books available at: www.amazon.com.

Disclaimer: The West Virginia Equine Association does not endorse any persons, organizations, products, or ideas that are published in this flyer. The views and opinions contained in this flyer do not necessarily state or reflect those of the West Virginia Equine Association. By using information in this flyer, you agree to not hold the West Virginia Equine Association liable for any results of using the information. The West Virginia Equine Association encourages equine owners and riders to seek the advice of a professional when making important decisions regarding their equine’s care and training.

BOOK REVIEW: “THE PERFECT STALL” by KAREN E. N. HAYES, DVM, MS

“The Perfect Stall” is a must have for every horse person. Dr. Hayes explains, step-by-step, how to turn your existing stalls into far healthier, cleaner, and safer environments for your horses. By following Dr. Hayes’s prescription, the air your horse breathes is much improved, stall cleaning time and labor costs are cut by more than half and much money in bedding costs is saved. Horse comfort, safety, and hygiene are improved, as is fire safety while odor becomes a thing of the past and flies are fewer in number.

“The healthiest place for a horse is a clean pasture. In a perfect world, that’s where all horses would be, all the time. But let’s be practical. Most horses spend at least some time in a stall. When we stable our horses, we do the best we can to make their abode comfortable, safe, and healthy. But is it really the best we can do? As an equine veterinarian I’ve seen every kind of horse facility, from the humblest backyard shack to the multi-million dollar show barn, from bare bones to mega-fancy. Believe it or not, the basic components in each stall are pretty much the same. In fact, we’ve been housing horses the same way for generations, for no other reason than it’s the way it’s always been done.”

Dr. Karen E.N. Hayes

Dr. Hayes addresses stall construction, bedding, the feeder, watering, ventilation, lighting, surveillance and more. At the end of each chapter, costs and where to purchase all that is needed for the making of the perfect stall is included.

MOUNT UP AND RIDE SAFE!!



WEST VIRGINIA EQUINE ASSOCIATION EDUCATION COMMITTEE



“UNITING & EDUCATING WEST VIRGINIA’S EQUINE COMMUNITY”
www.wvequineassoc.org

Equestrian Safety

- **Barn Safety**
- **Equine First Aid Kits**
- **Book Review: “The Perfect Stall” by Karen E.N. Hayes, DVM, MS**

BARN SAFETY

- Keep fire extinguishers, hoses and buckets in stable area (have fire extinguishers serviced annually).
- Ensure that all electrical wiring is protected preferably in conduits.
- Ensure that all light fittings are out of the reach of your horses and preferably in wire cages (no cob-webs).
- Fit waterproof switches well out of the reach of the horses.
- Preparation and planning is the greatest asset in fire prevention.
- Did you know that most insurance companies consider cobwebs in the barn to be a safety hazard? Frequent removal of cobwebs with a broom is necessary for good fire prevention.
- Keep phone numbers of Fire Department and Emergency personnel by each phone.
- Know where large quantities of water can be obtained (fire ponds or swimming pools).
- Have adequate water outlets in the barn.
- Install smoke detectors connected to high-decibel resonant horns. Clean detector frequently.
- Know location of electrical fuse/breaker boxes.
- Keep a halter and lead rope by each stall and never lock stall doors.
- Have a fire plan and fire drills several times per year to practice getting the horses out of the barn.
- Have a supply of empty feed sacks available for blindfolds. Wet sacks with water before using.
- Know where you will secure the horses if you have to evacuate the barn.
- **NO SMOKING IN BARN**
- Clean up all debris and never leave loose hay or straw in aisles.
- Store feed, hay, straw, or shavings in a separate building away from the barn. If this is not possible, be sure your loft is well ventilated and the hay is properly cured. Do not store heavy bales.
- Check hay for “warm spots”. If the temperature reaches 150F, take hay out and divide in to small, shallow stacks.
- Do not keep oily rags or flammable materials in the barn.
- Check all electrical wiring for frayed ends; roll up extension cords, etc. Use only heavy-duty cords. If a fuse blows check for shorts and other faults. Always use correct size fuse.
- Inspect all motors, heaters, and electrical devices frequently.
- Establish ongoing and effective rodent control programs – rats chew wires.
- Keeps aisles clear of equipment, etc.
- Ideally all barns should be constructed of non-combustible materials.
- In the event of fire, open one door of the stable only. As long as possible, keep the flow of fresh air to a minimum so the fire will not spread rapidly.

General barn keeping:

- Keep stall fittings and fixtures to a minimum.
- Make regular checks for protruding nails, screws, splinters, etc.
- Make regular checks of all door bolts and hinges and keep them oiled.
- Fit protective grills to all windows.
- Keep all drains clean.
- Cover all open drains with strong grids.
- Keep floors clean and dry to avoid slips and falls.
- Replace old and worn planks in the floor to prevent falls and breakthroughs.
- Stow away hay ropes and pitchforks to avoid accidental hangings and puncture wounds. Do not leave baling twine, haywire and old fence wire hanging about.
- Repair trap doors and railings.
- Keep all cleaning and vet supplies out of the reach of children
- To prevent mold growth, store only fully dried hay with a moisture content appropriate for the length of storage in a structure that prevents moisture from entering. Large round bales tend to contain mold spores, especially when stored outside. Use caution and dust masks when feeding. Moldy hay can heat up and pose respiratory hazards to humans and animals.

- Moving, handling, or feeding animals can create air quality problems due to dust. Inadequate or improper ventilation or confinement compounds this problem. The seasons pose more problems. Tightly closed buildings in cold weather do not provide enough circulation and many contain poorly vented or improperly functioning heaters. In warm weather, fans and open doors create winds that stir up dust. Regular cleaning with a power washer and installing floors that are as self-cleaning as possible can reduce dust level. Keep ventilation systems in top working order.

EQUINE FIRST AID KITS

Hardware (tools & instruments):

Blunt ended bandage scissors, stethoscope, thermometer made specifically for equines, bandage pins, ten 18 gauge x 1 inch hypodermic needles, syringes: Four 10cc, four 20cc, three 35cc, one stainless steel thumb forceps, ten wooden applicators (tongue depressors), one flash light, hoof pick, wrap cutter.

Medications & Preparations:

Bute tablets (melt in a little bit of warm water and add some molasses or jelly before adding to feed), Banamine for colic (get a couple of 10cc syringes from your vet and keep them in the fridge), an assortment of salves (ISP, Furazone, Ichthammol, silver sulfadiazine crème), Hydrogen Peroxide, double aspirin packets, double Ibuprofen packets, eye wash, Electrolyte Gold packets, large liniment, one pound Epsom salts, medium antiseptic ointment, one 6 oz Bloodstop, triple antibiotic ointment, KY gel, mineral oil and mint flavored Milk of Magnesia for colic.

Sanitizing & Sterilizing:

Alcohol wipes, hand sanitizing towelettes, Povidone iodine swab sticks, Betadine surgical scrubs, saline solution (2 tsp NON-IODIZED table salt to one quart of distilled