



Dr. Andrea Sotela and Dr. Nina Deibel prefer to perform routine floating with the Powerfloat, and are available to do large numbers of horses in a single day. If you prefer non-motorized dentistry, the other ambulatory veterinarians in our practice, as well as Dr. Deibel, offer performance hand floating. The current price for a basic Powerfloat is \$80 and a performance hand float is \$80. Sedation typically costs \$25, but in some cases may be as much as \$45 depending on the type of medication required. Horses with major dental problems may require extended time and effort. In these instances, the doctor involved will discuss options and give an estimate of additional expenses to you.

Besides making your horse less energy efficient, dental problems can also hamper your horse's comfort and thus his ability to perform well. Please remember to have your horse's mouth examined and maintained regularly so he can feel, work, and play his best.

PLANNING TO HEAD SOUTH FOR THE WINTER?

If you plan to head to warmer lands for the winter, please remember to plan ahead for your traveling needs. Horses heading south will need to receive boosters for West Nile virus, WEE/EEE, and EHV (Equine Herpes virus) at least two weeks prior to departure. A new Coggins may also be needed in order to travel. A health certificate is imperative, as it has become increasingly common for authorities to stop trailers to examine paperwork.

We are also happy to discuss what you should have in your first aid kits, and provide soundness evaluations and maintenance care prior to your departure. In addition, we expect to have some presence in Florida in 2010, depending on your needs. Please let us know how we can best assist you.

- Paul C. Mountan, DVM**
- James D. Mort, DVM**
- Jeffrey A. Williams, DVM**
- Amy L. Grice, VMD**
- Nina Deibel, DVM**



Rhinebeck Equine, L.L.P.

A Lifetime of Caring

- Lance H. Bassage, II, VMD, DACVS**
- Andrea Sotela, DVM**
- James N. Nutt, VMD, DACVS**



FALL DENTAL CLINIC DAYS

Rhinebeck Equine will be offering a series of dates for dentals and other preventative health care in each of nine geographic areas as a way to help our smaller stables and individual owners. By organizing our visits in this way, we will be able to charge a reduced call charge of \$15 per owner. We are committed to keeping important preventative care affordable in these tough economic times. In return, we must ask for payment at the time the services are provided.

These special dates are designed for routine care such as dentals, sheath cleaning, and fall vaccines such as West Nile virus, Potomac Horse Fever and Lyme boosters. Routine screening tests for thyroid levels, ACTH/insulin, Lyme titers, quantitative fecals or CBC/Chemistry profiles can be done at this time as well.

Several of our veterinarians will be participating on each of these dates. If you have a preference for a particular doctor, we will do our best to accommodate you. Because of the need to schedule many visits per day, it may be hard to accommodate specific requests for appointment times, but we will make an effort to work with your time constraints. We can accommodate those of you that may need to be at work on the scheduled dates. Doctors accompanied by assistants will be able to come to your stable in your absence if you can confine the horses with halters on, identify them with tags or clear descriptions, and leave a written list of your requests for each horse. Leaving a check at the farm, or a credit card number with our billing department will satisfy the need to provide payment at the time of services.



Geographic Location	Towns	Dates	Doctors
Columbia County West	Hudson, Clermond, Livingston, Claverack	Wednesday 9/29 Thursday 11/4	Deibel Sotela Grice
Columbia County East	Pine Plains, Millerton, Ancram, Copack, Chatham	Wednesday 10/6 Thursday 11/11	Deibel Sotela Grice
Dutchess Northwest	Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Staatsburg, Salt Point, Hyde Park, Stanfordville, Clinton Corners	Wednesday 9/30 Thursday 11/3	Deibel Sotela Grice
Dutchess South	Wappingers, LaGrangeville, Fishkill, Beekman, Stormville, Hopewell Junction, Poughquag, Pleasant Valley	Wednesday 9/21 Thursday 11/10	Deibel Sotela
Dutchess East	Millbrook, Mabbettsville, Amenia, Dover, Chestnut Ridge, Wingdale, Smithfield	Wednesday 9/22 Thursday 11/18	Deibel Sotela
Ulster/Green	Saugerties, West Camp Lake Katrine, Cairo, Catskill, Jewitt, Windham	Wednesday 9/28 Thursday 11/17	Deibel Sotela
Ulster 209 Corridor	High Falls, Hurley, Stone Ridge, Accord, Kerhonkson, Ellenville, Marletown	Wednesday 10/13 Thursday 11/30	Deibel Sotela Grice
Ulster 28 Corridor	Woodstock, Bearsville, Boiceville, West Shokan, Phoenicia, Shandaken, Olive Bridge	Wednesday 9/23 Thursday 11/23	Deibel Sotela
Ulster South of 209	Kingston, Esopus, Rosendale, New Paltz, Highland, Gardiner, Marlborough, Ulser Park	Wednesday 10/5 Thursday 11/9	Deibel Sotela

Please call our office to schedule your participation on these special dates. Our receptionists will help determine which location your stable belongs in, and schedule you accordingly. We look forward to seeing you!

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Fall 2010 Newsletter

26 Losec Lane • Rhinebeck, New York 12572

A Lifetime of Caring

Rhinebeck Equine, L.L.P.



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FALL 2010 EQUINE HEALTH CLASSES

A series of classes on a variety of health topics will be held on Saturdays at 10am starting September 11th. Enrollment is limited to 25, and there are still some spaces available. Each session will run about two hours, with time for questions. Classes will have demonstrations and hands on activities. Guest speakers may be present for some topics, and sponsors will be providing both information and sample products. Each participant will receive resources and written materials about the topic of each session. Light refreshments will be served.

- **September 11th** **Routine Health Maintenance**
- **September 18th** **Parasites and Deworming Strategies**
- **September 25th** **Nutrition and Feeding**
- **October 9th** **Conformation: Form and Function**
- **October 16th** **Lameness Diagnosis and Treatment**
- **October 23rd** **Care of the Older Horse**
- **November 6th** **Emergencies**
- **November 13th** **Colic**
- **November 20th** **Laminitis**
- **December 11th** **Pregnancy and Foaling**
- **January 8th** **Foal Care**

Individual classes may be attended at a cost of just \$25.00 per person. Advance tuition for attendance of all 11 sessions is \$200.00, and includes a notebook to organize the class materials, and a certificate of completion. Participants who attend both Pregnancy and Foaling and Foal Care will receive a copy of "Your Pregnant Mare and Her Foal", a \$25.00 value. Call Jeannie at extension 1023 or e-mail Jeannie@rhinebeckequine.com to enroll.



POTOMAC HORSE FEVER

Potomac horse fever (PHF) is a rickettsial disease that can affect horses of any age. Rickettsial organisms are a type of bacteria. PHF originally surfaced in the 1980s, when an outbreak of diarrhea in the Potomac River area of Maryland occurred. Since that time the disease has frequently been recognized throughout the country. In 2010 we are recognizing a particularly severe outbreak in our area.

The causative agent, *Neorickettsia risticii*, has a complicated life cycle that has been linked to fresh water snails and aquatic insects. Snails carry microscopic parasites called flukes within their gastrointestinal systems. There are several developmental stages of the flukes; the first larval forms of the fluke are called cercariae. *Neorickettsia risticii* is carried by these juvenile parasites. During hot weather, cercariae infected with *Neorickettsia risticii* are released into the water from snails and are consumed by aquatic fly larvae such as mayflies, caddis flies, dragonflies and 14 other aquatic insects (generally seen in New York from May through early September). These aquatic insects are thus infected with the organism that causes PHF. The cercariae mature into metacercariae after being consumed by the aquatic insects. These metacercariae are RESISTANT to the acid pH of the horse's stomach and therefore will not be destroyed by it. Horses grazing or eating feedstuffs can inadvertently consume these infected aquatic insects. Horses kept near fresh-water streams or ponds are therefore more likely to be at risk for getting the disease, because of the close

proximity of the aquatic insects. It is currently thought that horses cannot get the disease from drinking water containing infected cercariae or eating the snails because the cercariae are easily digested in the stomach and are NOT RESISTANT to the acid pH of the stomach.

Unfortunately, a horse does not have to be near water to contract PHF. Six horses were diagnosed with PHF after attending a horse show in Minnesota in 2005 where they were stabled and did not have access to a stream, pond, or turnout. Competitors reported vast numbers of dead mayflies that blew into the facility and into horse trailers at the show grounds, which contaminated the stalls, hay supplies, and water of many horses. Aquatic insects carrying the bacteria can travel and often congregate around stall lights or exterior lights that have been left on. These insects eventually die and fall into the horse's water bucket, feed bucket and/or hay where they can be consumed.



Neorickettsia risticii damages the intestine by invading the horse's white blood cells and migrating into the bowel, where it enters the colonocytes and enterocytes lining the mucosa of the bowel. Marked edema of the intestinal wall results, with a cascade of inflammation and toxin uptake from the damaged bowel.

The most common signs of PHF include depression, anorexia ("off feed"), and fever. A smaller number of horses develop diarrhea, or have signs of colic. Laminitis (inflammation of the lamina of the feet) occurs in 10-20% of cases, and is often severe. Most deaths attributed to Potomac Horse Fever occur due to euthanasia necessitated by severe laminitis.

Diagnosis of PHF consists of a careful history, a thorough physical examination, CBC/Chemistry profile and specific testing for *Neorickettsia risticii*. PCR blood testing (polymerase chain reaction: DNA testing looking for the bacteria in the white blood cells) can be performed but is often frustrating, as the organism leaves the blood stream so early in the course of the disease. A positive PCR confirms infection with PHF, but a negative test does not rule it out. Serology (immunofluorescent antibody) tests look for antibodies to the rickettsial organism. Unfortunately, testing the horse's serum for an antibody response can be unrewarding as some sick horses will have low titers. However, a titer of > 800 will confirm PHF. Most of the horses that we have recently diagnosed with PHF have a history of fever and lack of interest in feed, low white blood cell counts, low calcium, low total protein and dehydration. Few have had diarrhea. About 20% have developed severe laminitis. Most of our current cases are PCR negative and serology positive.

If the signs are recognized early enough, most horses are successfully treated. Treatment with intravenous oxytetracycline, fluids and anti-inflammatories is needed for 3-7 days, depending on response to therapy. If caught early, most horses will respond to treatment in 24-48 hours and have a dramatic recovery. It is common for appetite to take several days to return fully, and dehydration can continue for several days, especially if diarrhea is present or the weather is hot and humid. Early aggressive treatment is the best choice to prevent the development of laminitis. Horses that are quite toxic, dehydrated or have very high fevers have the most risk for this devastating sequela.

We have seen a notably increased case load during this hot dry summer. One theory is that the hot weather and drought-like conditions have dried

up regions where low-level water was previously present. This leaves areas of greener grass where horses can now have access for grazing. In these areas, there may be a large number of dead mayflies and caddis flies. The second theory is that some of the aquatic insects are traveling from the areas that have dried up in search of an aquatic environment. During their travels, the horse inadvertently ingests the insects when they die out in the pasture.

There is no guarantee that vaccination for PHF will prevent the disease; however, there is evidence that the severity may be reduced. Vaccination failures may represent variability in an individual's responsiveness to the vaccine antigens or lack of immunogenicity of the vaccines used. Until new vaccines become available, more strategically timed vaccination to target peak antibody production with highest likelihood of exposure to *N. risticii* may be the most useful tool for reducing disease mortality in endemic areas. Cornell University School of Veterinary Medicine is currently recommending vaccination every 90 days from April to October due to the severity of this outbreak.

To reduce the risk of your horses being infected with PHF:

- Keep stable and exterior lights off in the barn at night.
- Do not place your paddock water buckets or tubs near a light source. Insects will congregate around the light and then may inadvertently fall into the water.
- Restrict your horses grazing near low-lying wet areas, as well as creeks and ponds during May through September.

Most importantly, monitor your horse carefully and frequently for changes in demeanor, appetite and presence of fever. Please call us if you have any concerns.

NUTRENA FEEDS TO SPONSOR FALL SEMINAR

On Wednesday, October 20th, at 7:00pm, Rhinebeck Equine will host an evening seminar for our clients. Dr. Jim Ward will speak on "Managing Insulin Resistance". Dr. Amy Grice will speak on "Cushings Disease in Horses".

Dr. Ward is an Equine Management Consultant for Cargill Animal Nutrition, and is a member of the Cargill Product Development Team and the Cargill Global Equine Team. He has served in this capacity for ten years. A graduate of Texas A & M, Dr. Ward has also worked as an equine veterinarian for 40 years, with a special interest in equine reproduction and Thoroughbred breeding.

Dr. Amy Grice has been with Rhinebeck Equine for 20 years, and is one of the owners of the practice. She earned her veterinary degree from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, graduating in 1990. Her special practice interests include neonatology, ophthalmology, lameness, prepurchase exams, and practice management.

Attendance will be limited to 125, so please reserve your place early by calling Jeannie at ext 1023. Seating will not be reserved, so please plan to arrive fashionably early. Registration begins at 6:30pm. Door prizes will be given thanks to the generosity of our many sponsors. Light refreshments will be served.

JUST A REMINDER

Our credit policy states that all accounts must be paid in full within 30 days. In the event that payment is not received no additional credit will be extended and all future services will have to be paid at the time of service. In these economic times we must adhere to good business practices. Please call our accounting office at x1020 or x1021 with any questions or concerns about your account. We also offer CareCredit for those in need of other arrangements.

HELP US SAVE THE EARTH-HAVE YOUR BILLS AND NEWSLETTERS E-MAILED TO YOU

Please provide your e-mail address to us by sending it to liz@rhinebeckequine.com. We can help the environment and decrease our costs by sending invoices, newsletters and other communications electronically. We would also appreciate an update of any change in your address, phone numbers, or the location of your horse so we can contact you promptly in the case of an emergency.

SHOPPING FOR MEDICATIONS? CHECK OUR PRICES

With a credit card on file, or payment with cash or check upon receipt, pharmaceuticals can be purchased for a substantial discount if your account is in good standing. Before you place that next catalog order, be sure to compare our prices. We aim to provide you with the best service and prices that we can.

Please call or fax in your order for medications by 9 AM if you wish to pick them up during the day. Without advance notice of your order, there could be a wait for your medications. This is particularly important on Saturdays, because of limited staffing. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Thank you for your understanding.

Because we are keeping less inventory in stock, if you regularly purchase certain items, especially larger sizes, please make a note to call us before you are getting low, so we can be sure to have some on hand.

FALL IS TEETH FLOATING TIME

By Nina Deibel

As we come into the colder months of the year, it is especially important that horses are able to convert their food into energy. A very important step in this process is the ability to chew food properly. Since horses' teeth are constantly erupting or growing, most horses need to have their teeth floated yearly to ensure the good health of their mouths. Horses with dental abnormalities due to old age or poor occlusion may need to be done more frequently. Please ask your veterinarian to do a full oral exam this fall to ensure that your horse is well prepared to handle the cold weather.

Floating can be done either with hand tools or with the Powerfloat. For a thorough job, a full mouth speculum will be used to hold your horse's mouth open during the examination and/or floating. Sedation of all horses is recommended to allow the best outcome and to keep the horse and handlers safe. All horses that get Powerfloated need to be sedated. On occasion, horses will be given anti-inflammatories such as Bute or Banamine, if the doctor is concerned that the horse will have discomfort following the procedure.

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