



News and Updates

Happy July!! We hope everyone has been enjoying their summer. We have been on the road a good bit and staying busy! We thank all of our clients that trust us with your horse's care! We really love what we do and being able to serve our wonderful local equestrian community!

We would like to introduce our assistants that have been helping us out tremendously, Madison Kendrick, Laura Rose Cole, and Destiny Miller. They have been a wonderful asset to First Equine, and have made us significantly more efficient! This summer we have also had some 4th year veterinary students and pre-vet students ride with us to learn about equine ambulatory medicine. We've enjoyed their company and the opportunity to teach.

It's been HOT lately! We are starting to see some horses affected by anhidrosis and seeing a lot of skin issues. See below for information on anhidrosis and check out our upcoming events for skin issues in horses.

Dr. Patrick First will be attending the annual MMA summer conference this month to catch up on the latest in equine medicine! We try to stay abreast with the latest in equine medicine and lameness to help better serve our patients!

~Anhidrosis~

- Horses that stop sweating or have decreased the amount of sweating are prone to heat stress and even heat stroke! Anhidrosis can be an early symptom of PPID or Cushing's disease and there are varying levels of anhidrosis. We can do a test on your horse to determine if they have a degree of anhidrosis. Common symptoms include heat intolerance, flared nostrils and increased respiratory rate, and decreased or no sweating. Dr. Brittany has had great success in using acupuncture on horses with anhidrosis. We also recommend bringing horses in under fans and starting on Platinum Refresh from Platinum Performance.

Don't forget to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#).

Visit our Website

Upcoming Events

Common Equine Skin Conditions

Talk given by Marylu Ernsting of Kinetic Vet and hosted by City of Mobile and Mobile Mounted Unit

Where: 1251 Virginia St Mobile, AL 36604

When: July 31st 6:30pm

Equine Core and Risk Diseases

Talk given by Adrian Scales of Zoetis

Where: Jon Archer Agricultural Center

When: Sept 4th 6:30pm



Service Spotlight

Intradermal Allergy Testing

We are excited to now offer intradermal allergy testing! We commonly see horses with allergies -both skin and respiratory related. With IDA testing, we are able to determine what specific allergens your horse is allergic to, and formulate allergy shots specifically for your horse to help combat these allergies.

If your horse suffers from allergies, give us a call to set up an appointment!



Blaze's Success Story

This month's success story features Blaze, a 23 year old Appendix gelding owned by Ally Beall. Blaze was seen by Dr. Brittany at the beginning of May for acute swelling of his knee and lameness. On presentation, his leg was diffusely swollen with a small puncture wound over his carpus and his serum amyloid A (SAA) was extremely elevated. SAA is a quick blood test we can run in the field to determine if inflammation is infectious. Since his was so elevated, Dr. Brittany elected to do a regional limb perfusion to concentrate a high dose of antibiotics to his leg and apply a stacked wrap bandage to help get the swelling down.

Once the swelling in the limb had improved, Blaze was seen again for evaluation. He now had a fever and was still uncomfortable. With the swelling significantly improved, it was now safe to do a joint tap and radiographs to confirm our fears-Blaze had an infected joint. His puncture wound was directly over his radio-carpal joint and unfortunately, it had penetrated into the joint.

Infected joints of horses are one of an owner's worst fears, as they carry a poor prognosis. In order to treat them, the infected joint must be lavaged well and aggressive antibiotics started, and in some situations, despite treatment, horses may not recover or at best may recover to pasture soundness.

Knowing the odds, Ally elected to try. Blaze was started on aggressive treatment which included joint lavages, regional perfusions, systemic antibiotics, anti-inflammatories, as well as gastroprotectants to help his stomach due to the medications he was on. After several weeks of around the clock care, he steadily improved. The infection was cleared! However, due to the damage from the infection as well as stall rest for close to a month, we were still concerned with Blaze's soundness. A rehab plan was formulated for him which included hand walking, weaning him off of his leg bandages, and gradually introducing him back to turnout. He took everything in stride and seemed to improve each week.

At his 2 month check up, we were shocked at what we found-Blaze not only was comfortable at the walk, but he was actually sound at a trot!! We repeated radiographs on his knee, which showed some arthritic changes to his affected joint from the infection. Because of this, we elected to use Osphos on Blaze to help slow down the progression of arthritic change. Now, 3 months after his injury, we are SO HAPPY to report that Blaze and Ally are back to riding!! He is such a fighter and certainly defeated the odds!



His success is due to an army of caretakers and supportive friends and family. We were honored to be a part of his success!



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