



News & Updates

Summer is upon us!

It's getting warm fast! Make sure you are taking precautions against the warmer weather and staying hydrated and cool. We are officially in mosquito season and with that comes an increase in Eastern Equine Encephalitis and West Nile Virus cases. Give us a call to make sure your horses are appropriately vaccinated. Check out this link about the diseases that we commonly vaccinate against.

[Vaccines](#)

Laminitis risk

Horses that are overweight are more prone to develop laminitis. Now is the time to start restricting pasture turnout in these individuals to help keep their carbohydrate levels in check. A simple blood test can be performed to assess your horse for Equine Metabolic Syndrome and Insulin Resistance.

Dr. Brittany First spoke to the local Gulf Coast Dressage and Combined Training Association this past weekend on the benefits of Acupuncture!

Visit our Website

Upcoming Events

Client Education Seminar: Common Equine Emergencies

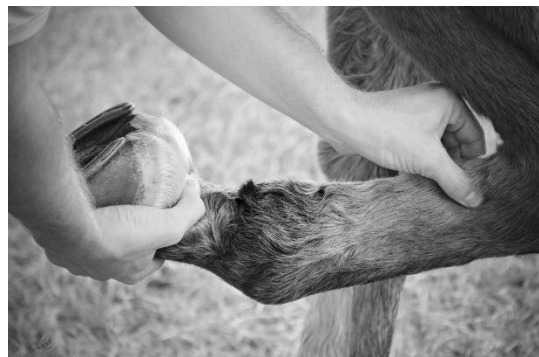
September 4th. Stay tuned for more details!



Service Spotlight

Lameness Evaluation

For the athletic horse a lameness during the competition season can be a huge set back. We strive to keep your horse comfortable and competing at a high level. Common injuries we see among athletic horses include: osteoarthritis, tendonitis, desmitis, navicular syndrome, etc. With early intervention and proper treatment many of these injuries can be healed and horses returned to previous level of athletic activity. If you suspect a lameness issue with your horse, give us a call.



Success Story

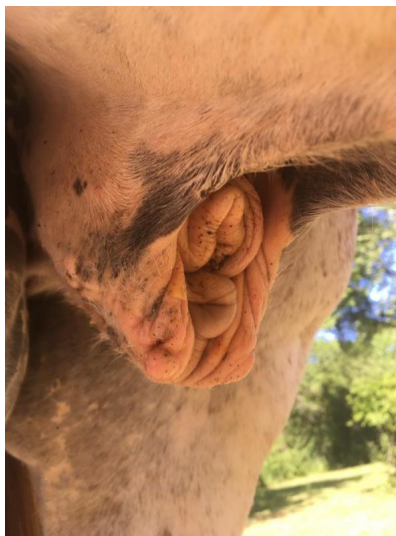
Diablo is a 20 year old Appaloosa located in Mobile, Alabama. He presented to First Equine on April 4th with a history of a quickly growing ulcerated mass on the side of his sheath. On examination masses were noted on the L and R sides of Diablos's sheath and were raised, ulcerated and well marginated. Differentials included Squamous Cell carcinoma, Sarcoids, Summer Sores, or Pythium. The mass was biopsied and submitted for histopathology. The results came back as Squamous Cell Carcinoma.



What is Squamous Cell Carcinoma?

SCC is the second most common cancer in the horse and typically affects mucocutaneous junctions around the eye and penis, prepuce, and vulva. Appaloosas, paints, and pintos are most predisposed. Chronic sun exposure on pink pigmented tissue has been linked with SCC. Treatment typically includes cryotherapy, surgical excision, chemotherapy, and photodynamic therapy.

Treatment for Diablo included surgical excision and injection of the chemotherapeutic cisplatin at the time of suture removal. We are happy to report that Diablo is healing well!



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