



New Faces at PAH

Our practice continues to grow, with the addition of many new enthusiastic people to help give your pet the highest quality of care. Two new veterinarians have joined us this year. Dr. Christine Murdock and Dr. Rachel Luksic are both

mixed-animal practitioners. They both are accepting new clients, and would love to meet you and your pet. Our support staff is also growing. Kaylene joins us in time for the holiday season as a receptionist. Behind the

scenes, we are happy to have Aubrey joining our kennel staff. She is one of the many faces that greets your pets in the morning and kisses them goodnight for you while your pets are staying with us.

Winter Weather Considerations

Just remember that while you are inside tucked under that blanket, in front of the wood stove, your four-legged friend has to deal with tromping through the snow to go to the bathroom, or may even live outside all the time. If your animal has a thin coat, such as a greyhound, or Chihuahua, you may consider buying a blanket/jacket for them if you take them for long walks, or if you leave them outside for extended period of times.

Make sure that you always check any outside sources of water to ensure that the water has not frozen over.

Animals need constant access to fresh, clean water. Now available are water bowls that plug in to keep the water from freezing. These are good investments for barn cats, who may always be outside.

Even though the temperatures have gone down significantly, it is still a good idea to crack your windows open a little if your animal is going to be staying in the car for extended periods of time. With the sun beaming in the car, the temperature inside the car can still rise to dangerous levels.

We have reminded you multiple times, and will

once again — be aware that the salt and sand mixes that are used to prevent slipping on roads and walkways can be slightly toxic and irritating to dogs and cats. Therefore, after walking your dog in areas where these products are used, it is a good idea to clean off your animals paws thoroughly. The substances can be irritating to the paw and pads themselves, and also can be extremely irritating to the gastrointestinal tract of your animal if ingested.



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Trick or Treat!

Candy, candy and more candy!! Kids look forward all year to Halloween and to going trick or treating. While the kids measure their success by the size of their candy bag when they return home, parents should BEWARE!! Make sure and keep that candy out of reach of your pets. Not only is the candy harmful for your pets but the wrappers can cause intestinal trouble as well.

Halloween can be a fun filled night for the whole family, but keep in mind that while you are enjoying the droves of costumed children coming to your door, your pet may not be so enthusiastic. Trick

or treating can cause many animals distress and anxiety. If your pet seems a little nervous, make sure to give them a quiet place where they



feel safe away from all of the commotion. Dressing up your pet and

taking them along for trick or treating may be a great photo opportunity, but remember that the safest place for them on Halloween night is at home. The increase in traffic both on foot and on the road can be a serious risk to your pet.

If you do dress up your pet, please make sure that the costume does not prohibit their movement or have anything that they could ingest. Do not use any colored hair sprays on your pets hair. They could lick their fur and ingest the spray which may be toxic.

So play it safe and have a Happy Halloween!!!!

Blanketing Debate

Some horses don't like being blanketed, and some owners HAVE to put a blanket on their horse to feel better about their horse being outside in the snow. Horses that have a nice thick winter coat do just fine outside even when the thermometer plummets. It is important however that your horse has some form of shelter or windbreak out in their turnout area. Wind and rain can slick down or part their hair coat so that they are not insulated well anymore, which is why it is important that in wind and rain the horse has access to a windbreak or shelter. Horses that are exercised heavily all year round may need to be body clipped, in which case they no longer have a nice warm

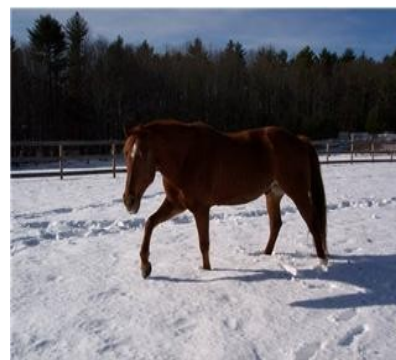
“If your horse is blanketed early in the winter, then you probably will have to keep a blanket on them, as their coat will not fully develop.”

hair coat to protect them from the elements, therefore these horses need to be blanketed. You may notice that some horses out in the pasture on a snowy day have snow built up on their backs, this is because they are so well insulated that their body temperature is blocked from melting the snow. As long as your horse is in good flesh (at an

appropriate weight), and has a nice thick hair coat, they probably do not need a blanket routinely in the winter. However, if a Nor'Easter is blowing in, and you don't have a good wind

break in your paddock, your horse may appreciate an extra layer. If you do blanket your horse, please routinely take the blanket off, check for weight loss, wounds, and occasionally brush

them well, as their hair can get matted down, which is very uncomfortable. If your horse is blanketed early in the winter, then you probably will have to keep a blanket on them, as their coat will not fully develop. However, if your horse is left unblanketed, they will develop a nice wooly coat that will keep them warm all throughout the winter!



Most horses do well in the winter without a blanket!

Going Away for the Holidays?

In addition to being a full service Veterinary Hospital, we also offer boarding services as well. We have indoor/outdoor runs available as well as some smaller cages for our more petit guests. We have facilities available for dogs and cats. Dogs will have daily turn out into



fenced in exercise yards

and cats have individual cages with their own beds, letterboxes and food/water dishes.

Space fills up quickly so don't wait, schedule your boarding arrangements today! Ask a receptionist for current rates.

Bare feet vs. Borium Shoes

In the winter, with slippery conditions inevitable, we horse owners must consider what we are going to do to help our four-legged companions stay safe and sure footed. Regular shoes are not an option in the winter. On slick surfaces they only act as ice skates, and snow builds up in them very quickly. Your farrier can add borium cleats to the shoes which act just like soccer cleats and give the horse more traction. These shoes are often used in conjunction with

“Regular shoes are not an option in the winter.”

“pop-out pads”, or similar pads, that help stop snow from clumping up inside the shoe. The other option is to pull off your horses shoes and let them go barefoot through the winter. Horse's hooves naturally dig into the snow and ice, and usually minimal snow will build up in a barefoot hoof. Although if your horse's hooves are in need of a trim, they may develop a rim of hoof wall around the edge, which will allow for snow to build up within the hoof. Some people will put barium shoes on the front feet and leave the horse barefoot behind, however,

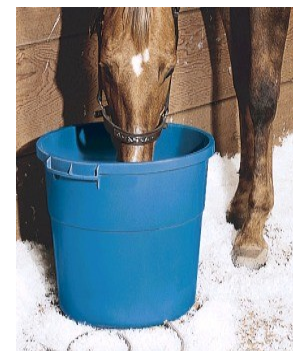
sometimes the horse will feel a false sense of security when they have good traction up front, but when they go to gallop across the field, they may lose their footing behind and fall down. Each horse will respond to shoes with extra traction or bare feet differently, so see what works for your horse, and talk to your farrier about what option is best for your situation.



Impaction Colics

In the winter, some horses will not drink as much water as normal and they do not move around in their turn-out areas as much as when the footing is better. These two factors alone, added to the fact that in the winter many horses stay in their stalls more than other times of the year, can cause your horses gastrointestinal tract to slow down. A GI slow down means that normal food and feces will build up on top of itself, and then sometimes form a fecal impaction. Symptoms of an impaction include decrease fecal output, signs of abdominal discomfort, and lack of an appetite. If you see any of these symptoms in your horse, please call your veterinarian right away. If caught early, we of-

ten can treat these horses successfully with pain medications, and mineral oil administration. We will often decrease the amount of feed you are giving your horse, until the horse starts to defecate a normal amount. Make sure that your horse gets as much turn-out time as possible, and always make sure your horse has a constant supply of clean fresh water. If you are using a heated water bucket, please make sure that they are working properly and don't pose a fire hazard.



Heated water buckets are helpful to make water available to your horse even when the temperature drops!

Pembroke Animal Hospital

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Drs. Julian, Peck, Reeve, Luksic, and Murdock are available for your large and small animal needs. Our facility on Sheep Davis Road services our small animal patients, and Drs. Peck, Luksic, and Murdock are available to come to your farm for large and small animal patients. We do routine surgeries in-house, and are associated with many referral clinics to send our patients to if the necessity arises.

Pembroke Animal Hospital also has boarding and daycare facilities.

Please feel free to contact us at the clinic regarding any information that you may need to ensure your pet's health and longevity.

Flea and Tick Season is Still Going Strong!!

While the colder months are quickly approaching, we are still in the active flea and tick season. Please continue to treat your animals with a topical flea and tick preventative until the ground is completely frozen.

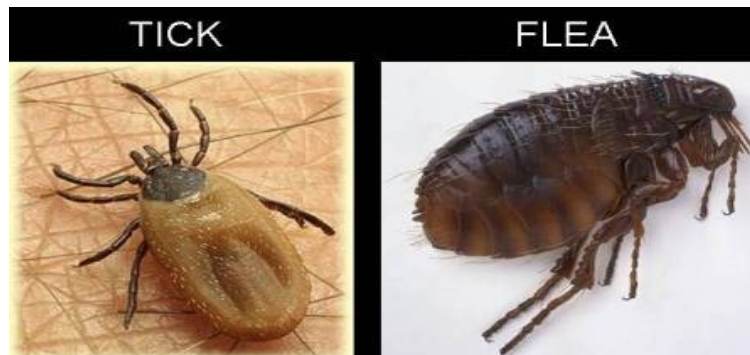
The best places to look for fleas on your pet are the hindquarters, base of the tail, stomach and groin regions. Sometimes no fleas are found but only tiny black granules that resemble black pepper. This material is flea feces and consists of digested blood. To distinguish this material from dirt, smudge it on white paper or add a drop of water to it. If you see a reddish-brown color, your pet has fleas, even if you can find none.

Remember, if you are seeing fleas on your pet, there are more in the pet's environment. Adult fleas are only the tip of the iceberg. Fleas have a three-month life cycle starting with eggs, then growing into larvae, and maturing into adults. It is important to treat all the animals in the household for at least three consecutive months to ensure con-

trol over the flea population.

Ticks are more than just a nuisance, they actually can transmit serious diseases to your pet. Dogs who are active in wooded environments have especially high risk to tick bites, even through the winter months.

These dogs should be treated with a topical flea and tick preventative throughout the winter.



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