

# CAPITOL RIDERS



## Hoofbeats - December 2010

General meeting Jan 4th, 7pm  
Traci Koch -treats



Year 2011 is here, already. And it is with great pleasure we report the days are getting longer again. Don't forget to renew your membership! (2011 application is towards the back.)

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, Chanukkah, productive new year, Boxing Day, Happy Holidays, etcetera, ecetera, etcetera. May all your days ahead be joyous and bright, filled with the laughter of family and freinds.

The chapter Christmas party went off with out a hitch (no horses present). All attending had a great time and we thank our host Rob Keyser for allowing us to make use of his barn. Even though the room was large, it was plenty warm enough. And it being your typical potluck, there was more than enough food for everyone. All seemed to enjoy the antics taking place during the gift exchange as well.



Your chapter web site has been undergoing additions; Leave No Trace, Education, Legislative and shopping pages have been added recently. The shopping page gives you access to iGive which helps to support Capitol Riders. It's free, private, and easy. Up to 26% of each purchase gets donated back to Capitol Riders! You'll see familiar stores like Lands' End, Office Depot, JCPenney, Neiman Marcus, Expedia, Barnes & Noble, and Macy's to mention a few! And you can search the web via iGive which also sends money back to Capitol Riders.



At some point down the road we hope to have the ability for riders to list rides and connect with others wishing to do the same. This will take a while to develop so stay tuned. 2011 chapter rides are also on-line.

### Vaccinations

by Madalyn Ward, DVM

My experience has been I see more chronic disease in heavily vaccinated horses. I would like to explain why I think this occurs. First, one must understand how vaccinations work. The 1 to 2 cc of vaccine injected into the horse does not provide protection from disease. This is very important to understand. It is the response of the horse's immune system to the vaccine that determines whether or not the horse will be protected.

The vaccine is an antigen designed to trigger a specific antibody reaction so the next time the immune system sees this antigen it will react quickly to combat it. This sounds like a great plan and has the potential to work with a good quality vaccine and a strong healthy immune system. The problem is many diseases don't produce good antigens and toxic substances called adjuvants must be added to trigger reaction by the immune system.

Also, the immunity following many vaccines is very short requiring injections to be given as often as every 2 months.



Would you allow yourself to be vaccinated every 2 months? I would like to make an analogy of the havoc multiple vaccines can cause. Consider the body as a country and the immune system as the army and local police in charge of protecting it. The nervous system acts as the communication network and the circulatory system makes up the high-ways. The army regularly protects the borders and the police keep internal peace. Everything goes well until without warning there is a huge invasion of enemy paratroopers. (Say you vaccinate your horse for VEW-T, Flu, Rhino, Rabies, Strangles, and Potomac Horse Fever on the same day) These invaders use our established highway system to infiltrate all areas of our country. Now if we have a very strong army and police force, the invasion will be thwarted. However, border patrol and local peace keeping efforts may suffer temporally. This is why it is important to give your horse several days vacation after any vaccine.

If, however, your horse has a marginal or weak immune system, a whole different scenario may occur. Because there are no reserve soldiers all forces are withdrawn from their regular duties to fight the invasion. Communications may break down as chaos develops. (Chronic Herpes) In the confusion orders may be given to attack friendly forces (Auto Immune Disease such as Periodic Ophthalmia) Stressed soldiers may become trigger happy and shoot at anything they see (Allergies) or roads may be blocked in an attempt to pin down the enemy, but at the same time cutting off vital supplies to the country side. (Laminitis) Even if the war is won, it is often at great expense as criminals have taken over many cities while the police were preoccupied. (Cancer) Remember, even though this is just a vaccine, it is designed to trick the immune system into thinking it is the real disease. With natural infection there would never be more than one disease at a time. It is critical that the status of the immune system and the risk of exposure be considered before any vaccines are given.

### Typical Vaccination History

Apr 1989 Potomac Horse Fever  
May 1989 Potomac Horse Fever  
Aug 1989 Flu, Rhino  
Nov 1989 VEW-T, Flu, Rhino, Rabies, Strangles  
Dec 1989 Flu, Rhino  
Apr 1989 Flu, Rhino  
Aug 1990 Flu, Rhino  
Dec 1990 VEW-T  
Jan 1991 Flu, Rhino  
Oct 1991 Flu, Rhino  
Feb 1992 VEW-T, Rabies, Strangles, Potomac Horse Fever  
Jul 1992 Flu, Rhino  
Dec 1992 Flu, Rhino, Strangles  
May 1993 VEW-T, Rabies, Potomac Horse Fever  
Jun 1993 Flu, Rhino, Strangles  
Aug 1993 Remove Melanomas Surgically  
Sep 1993 Flu, Rhino  
Mar 1994 Flu, Rhino  
May 1994 VEW-T, Rabies, Potomac Horse Fever  
Jul 1994 Laminitis  
Sep 1994 Laminitis  
Dec 1994 Flu, Rhino - Horse still under treatment for Laminitis  
Mar 1995 Flu, Rhino  
May 1996 VEW-T, Flu, Rhino, Rabies, Strangles, Potomac Horse Fever  
Aug 1996 Colic  
Jan 1997 VEW-T, Flu, Rhino, Rabies Strangles, Potomac Horse Fever  
July 1997 Return of Melanomas Severe Laminitis Silicea



Pure flint - Silicea is indicated in ailments secondary to defective nutrition. It will often help with the assimilation of minerals. Poor quality, dry cracked hooves are a primary indicator in horses. A tendency toward abscess formation also suggest Silicea. Scarring after injury and ill effects of vaccination also make Silicea a choice. It is a deep acting remedy and should be considered for many chronic cases. In addition to the previous symptoms the constitutional Silicea may be sensitive to heat yet chilly, have swollen glands, and have an excessive dislike for hypodermic injections.

### What Vaccinations Should I Give My Horse?

Before I can answer this question I must have information about you and your horse.

1. How old is your horse?
2. How healthy is your horse?
3. What diseases are present in your area?
4. Where and how is your horse stabled?
5. What activities do you and your horse participate in?
6. How fearful are you that your horse will get sick or die if you do not vaccinate?
7. Are you willing to change your management, if necessary, to prevent disease and support your horses immune system?

After these questions are answered I can recommend a vaccination protocol, but it is important for the horse owner to be educated about common equine diseases in order to participate in the final decision. Encephalitis I recommend vaccinating healthy horses for this disease as it can be fatal. Equine encephalitis comes in three forms; Eastern, Western and Venezuelan. All three are combined with tetanus toxoid in one vaccine. This is commonly referred to as a **VEW-T or 4-way vaccine**. Equine encephalitis is a viral disease transmitted to the horse by mosquitoes which pick up the virus from an intermediate hosts, such as birds, small rodents and reptiles. This means your horse does

not get this infection from or give it other horses, so even a backyard horse that never travels is at risk. To my knowledge, no research has been done to determine length of immunity, but vaccine manufacturers suggest annual vaccination. Until further information is available, I would suggest initial vaccination at 5 and 6 months of age followed by a booster every 3 years. If an outbreak is occurring, the booster can be given sooner. I would not vaccinate any horse over 15 years of age unless there is an outbreak.

### **Tetanus**

This disease can also cause death if it is not treated early and aggressively. Tetanus is caused by the bacteria, clostridium teteni, which generally infects the horse through contamination of a wound. Vaccine manufacturers recommend annual vaccination, but horses have been known to have protection for up to 10 years from their last vaccination. I would suggest the same schedule as encephalitis with a booster given if horse sustains an injury and has not been vaccinated within the last 1 year.

### **Tetanus antitoxin**

This is not a vaccine, but an antitoxin against the tetanus neurotoxin. It should be given along with tetanus toxoid to an injured horse with unknown vaccination history. Tetanus prophylaxis should also be considered for such situations as foaling and surgery.

### **Rabies**

Horses can get rabies and it is fatal. To my knowledge there are no documented cases of a horse transmitting rabies to a person. To contract rabies, the horse must be bitten by a rabid animal. Wild animals such as skunks, fox, raccoons or bats are the usual sources of infection. Vaccine manufacturers recommend annual vaccination for horses, although the same vaccine is known to provide protection to dogs and cats for at least three years. There have been cases of rabies in vaccinated horses. I do not routinely advise vaccinating for this disease, but if you are concerned and choose to vaccinate, the manufacturer's directions should be followed.

### **Influenza (Flu)**

This is a respiratory disease caused by a virus. Symptoms include coughing, fever, loss of appetite and muscle soreness. It is rarely fatal. Uncomplicated cases recover in 1 to 3 weeks. It is acquired from other infected horses. The best treatment is rest and TLC. Immunity from vaccination is of very short duration, often less than 2 months. It is my opinion that vaccination causes more harm than good, and horses will become less susceptible as they mature. A healthy immune system is the best defense. In a study with racehorses, there was no difference in infection rates in vaccinated versus unvaccinated controls when the horses continued to work. In the same study, vaccinated horses that were taken out of hard training during the outbreak had lower infection rates. Unfortunately, this study did not include unvaccinated horses that were rested. I suspect they would have done just as well.

### **Rhinopneumonitis (Rhino)**

This viral disease can take several forms. Equine herpes virus 1 and 4 both cause mild respiratory infection primarily in young horses. Infection is acquired from other infected horses. Like influenza, immunity from vaccination can last less than 2 months. Horses can become latent carriers of the equine herpes 1 virus. This means the horse stays infected but does not show symptoms or infect other horses unless stressed. Once stressed, however, the horse may or may not show symptoms, but can be a source of infection for other horses. Equine herpes 1 can also cause abortion in pregnant mares. When horses are shipped and congregated together there is more stress on latent carriers. These horses may then become viremic and cause abortions in the herd. For this reason, most brood mare farms require mares be vaccinated at 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy. Even this procedure does not always prevent abortion, and some mares will not abort even if they become sick. Although I would prefer to take my chances than give these vaccines, you may not have an option if you ship your mare for breeding. If you do not ship your mare, you can use good management to control exposure to the herpes virus. Keep pregnant mares separated from young stock and isolate all horses shipping in for 10 to 14 days before introducing them to the herd.

On rare occasions equine herpes 1 can cause neurological symptoms ranging from mild hind limb in coordination to quadriplegia. I have never seen this from actual infection, but I have often seen pain and persistent hypersensitivity in horses following vaccination. This usually appears about 2 weeks following vaccination, and I do not know if the vaccine causes these symptoms directly or perhaps stresses the horse enough to cause a flare up of a latent infection. Despite all

the varied disease states this virus can cause, it is rarely fatal with the exception of abortions. I believe management is most effective as a control measure and vaccination may cause more harm than good.

### **Streptococcus Equi (Strangles)**

This is a contagious bacterial infection of the upper respiratory tract primarily in young horses. It is characterized by nasopharyngeal inflammation, a mucopurulent nasal discharge, and abscessation of regional lymph nodes. It is rarely fatal, although complicated cases do occur. Infection is usually through contact with infected horses. The bacteria can live in the environment and become concentrated where large numbers of horses congregate. It can also be transmitted by contamination of inanimate objects such as water or feed buckets. Infected horses may shed this bacteria for several months following infection. Unfortunately, there is no good vaccine. I do not recommend vaccination with current vaccines on the market.

### **Equine Monocytic Ehrlichiosis (Potomac Horse Fever)**

Equine Monocytic Ehrlichiosis is a blood borne rickettsial disease caused by Ehrlichia Risticii. Clinical symptoms associated with this disease can include severe diarrhea, fever, anemia, leukopenia, edema of the limbs and ventral portions of the body, abortion, colic, and laminitis. Horses can die from this disease, but most recover following appropriate treatment. A study done at Cornell University in 1995 suggested the vaccine for EME did not lower rates of infection or severity of disease. I do not recommend vaccination for this disease.

### **Conclusion**

Planning a vaccination program is an important part of horse care. Antibody titers can be measured by taking blood samples and this may help determine your horse's current immune status to diseases such as Encephalitis, Influenza, Rhinopneumonitis and Rabies. After careful consideration of the 7 questions at the beginning of this article and discussion with your veterinarian, you should be able to determine what is best for you and your horse.

### **About the Author**

Madalyn Ward, DVM, owns Bear Creek Veterinary Clinic in Austin, Texas. She is certified in Veterinary Homeopathy and Equine Osteopathy. Memberships include American Veterinary Medical Association, American Association of Equine Practitioners, American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association, Texas Veterinary Medical Association and the Academy of Veterinary Homeopathy. She has authored several books and publishes the monthly newsletter, "Holistic Horsekeeping."

Contact  
Madalyn Ward DVM  
11608 FM 1826  
Austin, TX 78737  
303-575-1170

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### **Be considerate when watching wildlife in winter**

While winter can be a great season to watch wildlife, it's also the time when we can most easily stress those subjects of our surveillance. All of us, including our feathered and furred friends in the wild, use more energy to move and function in winter's cold and snow. Unnecessary disturbance of animals that exist 24-7 in those conditions just depletes their energy reserves more quickly.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) wildlife biologist Christopher Anderson says minimizing impact to wild animals at this time can be critical to their survival.

"This is the lean season for wildlife," Anderson said. "Little things can make a difference, like approaching animals too closely and causing them to flush or flee, often times in cold temperatures or through deep snow. You can avoid disturbing wildlife in that way by using your binoculars or scope and telephoto camera lens. Teach children to be respectful of wildlife and their need for space. And leave the dog at home, in the vehicle, or indoors if you're watching on your own property."

Some wild animals that winter in Washington are very opportunistic in their survival strategies. A well worn trail through the snow to a site where wildlife beds, roosts or dens will be readily used by predators, both wild and domestic. Food sources inadvertently left accessible -- like garbage, compost, pet food, or poorly placed bird feeders - may draw animals that prey upon winter concentrations of other species.

Feeding wildlife in winter may seem like a good idea to offset their energy deficit, but it often causes more problems and can become very costly. See WDFW's Winter Wildlife Feeding information for details.

Anderson says a good way to watch wildlife in winter that is less apt to cause disturbance is to use specific sites that separate viewers from wildlife by motor vehicle routes, trails, boardwalks and blinds. These include:

- Whatcom Wildlife Area's Lake Terrell Unit, ten miles northwest of Bellingham and five miles west of Ferndale in Whatcom County; wildlife viewing is available year-round on a fishing pier from where you can see trumpeter and tundra swans and bald eagles in winter; black-tailed deer are also viewable year-round.
- Skagit Wildlife Area's Johnson/Debay Swan Reserve, northeast of Mount Vernon in Skagit County; provides a winter feeding and resting reserve for trumpeter and tundra swans, and other wildlife, with grass and corn planted for swans and ducks; the large numbers of wintering waterfowl also attract bald eagles and other raptors; beaver and river otters inhabit the sloughs year-round; public parking and access is provided as well as two parking/viewing areas for disabled users
- Skagit Land Trust's Hurn Field, west of Sedro-Woolley in Skagit County; offers wintering area for elk, but also viewable waterfowl and winter birds; viewing area constructed by WDFW.
- Skagit Wildlife Area's Fir Island Farms Snow Goose Reserve, on Fir Island Road, and adjacent to the Skagit Bay estuary in Skagit County; provides a winter-feeding and resting area for thousands of snow geese with fields of winter wheat grown for the birds; walk along the dike to scan for waterfowl and shorebirds, including wintering dunlin and numerous bald eagles.
- Central Puget Sound urban areas: Kent Ponds for waterfowl and raptors, Discovery Park for wintering passerines and bluff overlooks to see wintering seabirds on the sound, Edmonds waterfront/Carkeek Park/Quartermaster Harbor from Vashon or Maury Island/Seahurst Park/Des Moines Beach Park for beach/shoreline wintering seabird watching; Union Bay Natural Area (Center for Urban Horticulture) for winter waterfowl and passerines.
- Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge, northeast of Olympia in Pierce County; thousands of ducks and geese through the winter, plus raptors and songbirds year-round; black-tailed deer, mink and coyotes are at the forest edge; one-mile trail provides access to many habitats and numerous observation decks and some new elevated walkways will be open in January.
- Olympic Peninsula areas: Ocean Shores North Jetty and Damon Point shoreline trails in Grays Harbor County, and Willapa Bay, Long Beach Peninsula, and Leadbetter Point shoreline lines in Pacific County to view wintering seabirds
- Ridgefield National Wildlife Refuge, in Columbia River floodplain north of Vancouver in Clark County; hosts thousands of wintering waterfowl including tundra swans, Canada geese, cackling geese and many duck species; year-round see raptors, coyotes, river otter and herons; a 4.2-mile auto tour route is open daylight hours through winter; wintering tundra swans also viewable at Franz Lake on Washington side of the Columbia River Gorge and Mirror Pond at the foot of Crown Point in Oregon.
- Oak Creek Wildlife Area, northwest of Yakima in Yakima County; winter elk feeding program (to keep animals off of adjacent private lands where they cause damage) has side benefit of easy and close viewing from high-fenced visitor parking lot off Hwy. 12; bighorn sheep also fed in some units; check recorded message at (509) 653-2390 for updates on feeding start-up and volunteer-led, elk-viewing tours (by reservation only through (509) 698-5106).
- Toppenish National Wildlife Refuge, south of Toppenish in Yakima County; wintering waterfowl and raptors; wildlife observation and hiking are allowed year-round in the southeast portion of the main refuge from Highway 97 to refuge headquarters.
- Pineside Sno-Park Loop on Gifford Pinchot National Forest in Klickitat County; dying trees from budworm outbreak in the 1990s are loaded with insects and attract Williamson's sapsucker; hairy, white-headed, three-toed, black-backed, and pileated woodpeckers; brown creepers, and other birds; birdwatch while cross-country skiing and snowshoeing the area.

- Conboy Lake National Wildlife Refuge in northwest Klickitat County; wintering rough-legged hawks, northern shrikes, common redpolls; other winter viewable species include tundra and trumpeter swans; greater white-fronted goose; cinnamon teal; northern pintail; northern harrier.
- McNary National Wildlife Refuge, near the confluence of the Snake and Columbia rivers southeast of Tri-Cities in Walla Walla County; some 100,000 Canada geese and mallards winter here, plus tundra swans and a variety of duck species; one-mile loop Burbank Slough Wildlife Trail and viewing blind available.
- Echo Ridge Nordic Ski Area in Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, north of Chelan in Chelan County; snow buntings and other wintering birds; watch for cougar and bobcat tracks from 25-mile cross-country skiing trail loop around ridge tops with vistas of Lake Chelan and surrounding mountains.
- Sinlahekin Wildlife Area's Sinlahekin Unit south of Loomis in Okanogan County; year-round hawks, eagles, white-tailed deer and diversity of other wildlife species; watch wildlife from viewing blinds or via 11-mile nature trail traversible in winter when snow conditions exist on cross-country skis or snowshoes.

More details on some of these and other sites for winter wildlife viewing are available in the Audubon Great Washington State Birding Trail series of maps [http://wa.audubon.org/birds\\_GreatWABirdingTrail.html](http://wa.audubon.org/birds_GreatWABirdingTrail.html) and at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/viewing/>



Merry Christmas!

N O R T H  
 S H U M M E R  
 S T A T E  
 A P P L I C A T I O N

## Come Join Us!

To join or renew your membership with BCHW, complete this application:

- Please PRINT LEGIBLY.
- Sign the LIABILITY RELEASE (all members over 18).
- Make checks out to CAPITOL RIDERS.
- Give or mail the application to Chapter Treasurer:

Traci Koch  
 61 SE Craddick Road, Shelton, WA 98584



### Member Info

New Member       Renewal – Membership number(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Adult's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children's name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Legislative district (if known): \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

#### STATE MEMBERSHIP

##### Basic Membership

- Single                      \$36.00  
 Family                        \$49.00

##### Optional Membership (*includes family or single from above*)

- Contributing                \$65.00  
 Sustaining                  \$100.00  
 Patron                        \$250.00  
 Benefactor                 \$500.00  
 Lifetime (Single)        \$1200.00

State dues paid online (attach receipt copy)

Additional State Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal A \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP

Chapter Name (or Independent): \_\_\_\_\_

##### Capitol Riders

Chapter Dues - Single \$10.00  
                                  - Family \$15.00    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Additional Chapter Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal B \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Grand Total (A+B) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### LIABILITY RELEASE & NOTICES

All ADULT members MUST sign! Adult's signature covers minor children.

Recognizing the fact that there is a potential for an accident wherever horse use is involved, which can cause injuries to horses, riders, and spectators, and also recognizing the fact that Backcountry Horsemen of Washington, Inc., including Chapters, officers, directors, or members, cannot always know the condition of trails or the experience levels of riders or horses taking part in trail rides or other BCHW events, I do hereby release and hold harmless the above named from any claim or right for damages which might occur to me, my minor children, or horses.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Backcountry Horsemen of Washington (BCHW) is a public charity as defined in Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Accordingly, membership dues paid to BCHW may be treated as deductions characterized as "charitable contributions" when computing federal and state income tax obligations.

## Calendar (partial) of Events for 2011 -

- Jan 4 - General meeting, 7 pm, Littlerock Fire hall  
Jan 15 - Buckhorn Range chapter ride, Larry Scott Trail in Port Townsend, 10 am  
Bob @ (360)531-2337 or bobhoyle@usa.net  
Feb 1 - General meeting, 7 pm, Littlerock Fire hall  
Mar 1 - General meeting, 7 pm, Littlerock Fire hall  
Mar 5 - DNR Gravel Haul, Capitol Forest (more to come)  
Sometime in March - Olympic chapter LNT display at Cabela's, Lacey  
Mar 18-19 BCHW Rendezvous, Leadership Training, Auction, Dinner, Dance and  
General Membership Meeting, Ellensburg (talk to Jeff LaBreck)  
Apr 5 - General meeting, 7 pm, Littlerock Fire hall



Chris Enrico  
4809 24th Ave SE  
Lacey WA 98503

**Capitol Riders**  
<http://capitolriders.org>

