

F A L L 2 0 0 8

# *“From the horse’s mouth”*

A newsletter from Paton and Martin Veterinary Services



## **We opened our new Equine Hospital to the public!**

On August 1<sup>st</sup>, the new equine hospital at Paton and Martin Veterinary Services opened its doors to mark a new era in the equine health care in the lower mainland. The newly purposely-designed facility is led by Dr. Antonio Cruz, a board-certified surgeon of impressive credentials. Paton and Martin Veterinary Services aim to fill a gap, which existed in the lower mainland and to bring another option for hospital care to horse owners.

### Some services offered...

#### **Surgical Services**

A wide range of surgical procedures are offered at our hospital from arthroscopies to colics and many others.

#### **Medical Care**

Not only surgical cases, but also any other type of hospital care can be delivered at our new facility.

#### **Specialty Care**

An array of board-certified specialists are available when needed for your horse, including a surgeon, internist anaesthesiologist and ophthalmologists.

## **New Website Launched**

Our new website was launched on October 9, 2008. This new website is designed with the horse’s owner in mind. In addition to a friendly format and easy navigation, you will find an educational area where we will keep you abreast of important and new information. In addition we will showcase some clinical problems through a “case of the month” format.

At Paton and Martin Veterinary Services we understand that owner education is paramount to managing your horse’s health and therefore increasing your chances to avoid later problems. However we also understand that prevention strategies may not avoid all health problems that your horse may face. For this reason we hope that through our website you will find the information to make you a more knowledgeable horse owner and to be engaged in your horse’s health. Please

visit our website at  
[www.pmvetservices.com](http://www.pmvetservices.com)





## Our Facilities

We are located on 25930 40<sup>th</sup> Ave in Aldergrove on a 7.5 acre property. This is a rural setting chosen because of its convenient location, accessibility and its serenity. This property allows us to provide ample paddocks for your horse's comfort and a circular drive way for your convenience. In addition we have a lameness examination area with hard and soft ground and a riding ring with optimal footing. Our second barn allows us to house horses that may require isolation while hospitalized. A unique feature in the region is that we have a stall prepared to sling horses if needed.

### We are proud!

Dr. Paton, the founding partner of Paton and Martin Veterinary Services, started this practice 30 years ago and has stuck to horse owners through good and bad times. He has seen his practice go through different phases with the *motto* in mind of always offering more and better health care to horses. "This is a new era of veterinary care and we thought it was time for the people of this region to be able to access health care at an advanced level. We are proud of our new facility and extremely thankful to the clients that have supported us through the years to make this possible." - says Dr. Paton

### Our open house – A resounding success

On August 19<sup>th</sup>, we hosted an open house to all of our clients. Over 200 people came to see our hospital and socialize with our doctors and staff.

Thank you all!





## Featuring our staff

### Kirsten Bohach

If you call our office chances are that you may be greeted by Kirsten. She is one of our receptionists and our office manager keeping us organized throughout the day so we can serve you better.

Kirsten is an important and valued team-member and has been part of the company for over 8 years.

Should you have any questions or wish to make an appointment with one of our doctors, please contact the office where Kirsten will answer them or lead you in the right direction.

## HORSE BITS

by Antonio M. Cruz

## LAMENESS AND YOUR HORSE

Lameness problems constitute the main cause for premature retirement in horses and they can vary from easy to diagnose problems to more complex and severe problems. In today's world of technological advancement, equine medicine has also benefited in the area of lameness exams. Nonetheless, no technology can replace the clinical exam and the interpretation of diagnostic findings by the equine practitioner. It is for this reason that an experienced and well-educated practitioner may be in an advantageous position to find the problem affecting your horse. At Paton and Martin we not only have invested in advanced technologies but also in our staff. While always looking into ways of advancing our medicine we remain critical of new miracle finds. In these days of full access to information it is important to separate the good from the bad to bring you those advancements that we believe are well founded. We filter information for you and we are prepared to present new discoveries in an objective manner so you invest your hard-earned money on the right treatments.



## Horse biscuits recipe

Here is a great recipe to keep your horse happy during grooming or after a nice work-out

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1 cup uncooked oats       |   |
| 1 cup flour               | . <i>Mix ingredients in bowl</i>                                |
| 1 cup shredded carrots    | . <i>Make small balls and place on greased cookie sheet</i>     |
| 1 teaspoon salt           |   |
| 1 teaspoon sugar          |   |
| 2 teaspoons vegetable oil |   |
| 1/4 cup molasses          |   |
|                           | <i>Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until golden brown</i> |

## Our educational column

by Antonio M. Cruz

We start this section of our newsletter with the intention of offering you information on relevant and timely topics that may be of interest to you. As we approach the off-season for some of you, I wanted to address the issue of arthritis as this is a very common condition and one that affects many horses and their performance. During this off-time horses may become a bit stiff as their level of exercise diminishes.

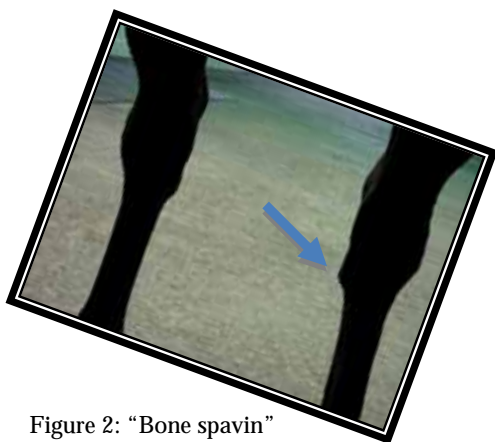


Figure 2: "Bone spavin"  
(arrow)

### How to prevent it

Arthritis is a difficult disease to prevent entirely. However there are things that you could do to decrease the risk of occurrence. Here are a few recommendations:

1. Choose a horse with good conformation
2. Condition your horse properly
3. Design the performance season appropriately
4. Maintain a good health care program
5. Keep your horse lean and fit
6. Hire a good farrier
7. Observe your horse and learn when to give him a break
8. Be gentle.

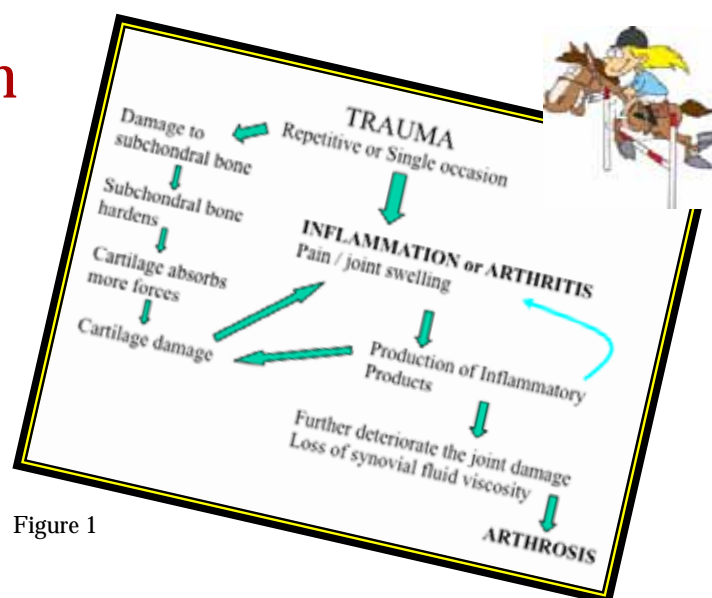


Figure 1

### The problem

By definition, arthritis, is the inflammation of the tissues in the joint. In severe cases this may progress to arthrosis, which indicates a degenerative and irreversible process (see Figure 1). Much of the arthritis encountered in horses is the result of excessive trauma and exercise and normal wear and tear. It is the most common health problem encountered by our equine friends and one that is costly to treat or manage. In the worst case scenario it may severely limit the horse's ability to perform.

### How to recognize the problem

Arthritis can occur in any joint and depending on the horse's occupation and age, different joints may be affected. Lameness and joint swelling (Figure 2) are the primary clinical signs and should prompt you to seek veterinary advice.

### How to treat it

When arthritis is limited to the inflammation stage, treatment is often curative, but prompt and aggressive therapy is needed. Once a degenerative process has started the focus is on managing the condition to slow it down as much as possible. For further information about treatment strategies please visit our website at <http://www.pmvetservices.com>

## SEASONAL TIPS



*The fall is a season of change. As the circle of life is sudden changes in the weather and temperature are a seem to have a few more problems when sudden changes routine. Sudden frosts and freezing temperatures may to colic. In addition muddy pastures may create ideal are some tips to have a safe and fun fall:*

*preparing for renewal, part of it. Horses affect their normal produce opportunities for horses conditions for accidents to occur. Here*

1. *Make sure your horses have constant access to fresh and plenty of water.*
2. *Clean your paddocks. Ensure that there are no loose metal objects, broken fences, holes in the ground or any other type of possible hazard.*
3. *Perform maintenance on your fences.*
4. *Deworm after the first frost.*
5. *Limit access to frozen grass.*
6. *If you can give your horse a break from performance, keep them without shoes but well trimmed for a period of 4-6 weeks and let them be horses, roaming around and socializing freely with others.*

## HOT TOPICS



This is a column where we will be posting some of the most recent research results, filtered and interpreted for you. Straight from the horse's mouth!

### ***1. Does Platelet Rich Plasma (PRP) aid in tendon and ligament healing?***

A recent study by Cornell University researchers, has established that *in-vitro* (in the lab) use of PRP reduces degradation of tissues and increases synthesis of reparative tissue when compared to using bone marrow aspirates or plain blood. Although no *in-vivo* (in the horse) data exists yet, the *in-vitro* results are encouraging and would support the eventual application of PRP for tendon and ligament injuries.

### ***2. Does colic surgery in aged (> 20 yr) horses have worse outcomes than in younger ones?***

A retrospective study of colic surgery in older horses performed by Chino Valley Equine Hospital in California, studied 61 geriatric horses who underwent colic surgery for a variety of diseases. Seventy-nine percent of horses left the hospital alive. While 100 % of horses not requiring intestine removal survived, only 74 % of horses requiring intestinal removal left the hospital. Thirty per cent of horses developed post-operative complications, which required extended hospitalization. The results of this study are comparable to outcomes reported in younger horses. These results are encouraging to people with older horses contemplating the option of doing colic surgery on an emergency basis.