



EQUINE GUELPH
HEALTHflash



YOUR SEASONAL HEALTHCARE REMINDER

Winter 2014

Dear Equine Enthusiast,



Alert: For Bonnyville, Alberta [Equine Infectious Anemia](#)

WINTER IS HERE - ARE YOU READY?

**Dashing through Snow
Staying sound in the winter**



- **Cold and still can equal stiff**
Below freezing temperatures can make hibernation look tempting but inactivity in horses can lead to many issues.
[Read up on tips to stay mobile this winter](#)
And when to [call the vet if lameness is suspected](#).
- **A breath of fresh air**
Equids are equipped to deal with the cold. With certain precautions, maximizing turn-out time can be the healthiest option for your horse. Stall bound horses incur a higher risk for respiratory ailments that can impede or halt your horses athletic career.
[Read tips for cleaner air in your stable courtesy of Equine Guelph's Management of the Equine Environment course.](#)
- **Shivering seniors**
If your senior steed is looking cold this winter, it may be time to feed more fibre and consider a blanket.
[Learn more horse management tips for the elderly equine with this information sheet](#)



Top Seasonal Tips

1. *Colic alert* - Horses need water 24/7. When moist grass is replaced by dry hay the need for water in digestion becomes even greater. Don't allow water sources to freeze. Use Equine Guelph's interactive [Colic Risk Rater tool](#) to assess your risk.
2. *Safe passage* - You put winter tires on your car but how will your horse fare in icy conditions? Keep pathways clear with a handy mix of wood chips, sand and rock salt.
3. *Hair raising experiences* - Beware the dangers of throwing a winter blanket on a sweaty horse. If your horse is not clipped, cooling out time will increase. Horses' lose the ability to insulate themselves against the cold when hair is wet and laying flat. [More tips...](#)
4. *Winter weight* - what is going on under that blanket? Check your horse is maintaining condition. Horses should still receive a daily once over in the winter including hoof picking, wound checks... and weight loss or gain.
5. *Fire safety* - keep warm but not with household extension cords and heaters in your stable. [For 38 more fire safety tips...](#)

For more information on online educational courses - [click here](#)

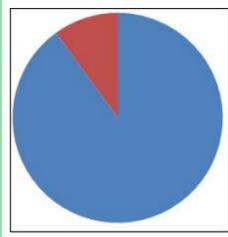
Please note: This information provides guidelines only and should never replace information from your veterinarian.

TAKE YOUR KNOWLEDGE TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Survey

Thank you to all who provided us with feedback on Equine Guelph's **HEALTHflash** program. Your input will help shape the content of upcoming issues. Congratulations to winners of the eWorkshop draw: Lisa Wood of Caledon, ON and Barbara Nicol of Ridgeway, ON.

HEALTHflash survey participants told us:



90% of participants answered they vaccinate for tetanus.
84% of respondents vaccinate for West Nile, 79% for rabies, 77% for flu, 73% for WEE/EEE.

We love your feedback. Our next HEALTHflash will reveal the answer to the following question:

Have you ever re-purposed a racehorse for a second career?

[Yes/No](#)

Helpful Video



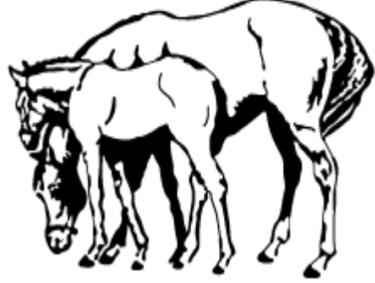
Promoting respiratory health



Round bales not recommended as they provide an environment where mould can take hold

"YEAR OF FULL-CIRCLE-RESPONSIBILITY" - 2014

Five Freedoms of Welfare



EQUINE GUELPH
helping horses for life™

Support the Welfare of Horses

- [Learn the internationally recognized five freedoms, providing animals with good welfare](#)



What does Equine Welfare mean?

The simple definition of welfare, "quality of life", can at times be unclear, as this term, can mean different things to different people. This is especially true of equine welfare, where breeds vary greatly in their needs. Nonetheless, everyone can agree that providing good welfare to our beloved horses should be based on both physical and mental health.

With challenging times facing the horse industry concern for equine welfare is at its highest. [Learn more about the Code of practice, help lines and how you can help prevent welfare issues in your community.](#)

Industry Partners



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