



**Siete Leguas Equine Veterinary Services**  
**13865 Hollyhock road**  
**Cold Spring, MN 56320**

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**Late Fall Edition 2013**

**A Note From Nicole...**

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**Coggins**

This next spring we are going to be asking clients for their email address at the time we do their horses' coggins. We would like to email out as many coggins as we possibly can.

Along with being able to email them out, we will be able to have an email address on Global Vet Link for owners to access their coggins that way as well.

If you do not have an email address, please let us know so we can mail the coggins out.

Summer went fast. With hay prices rising, and lots of people falling (off of horses, and being injured) this year, I guess it won't be too bad to see 2013 go. How is your hay situation? I know that a lot of hay came off of places that aren't usually cut, so we've seen lots of cattails, willow branches, moss and weeds in the hay and left on the ground where horses have been eating. If your hay is less-than-optimum quality this year, or you've had to purchase hay from sources other than your regular supplier, watch closely for inedibles and garbage to prevent problems! There are also some great forage products out there, mentioned in our Winter Feeding Tips article. If you are interested in learning more about these, please feel free to call and we will point you in the right direction.

There have been quite a number of people calling us and MN Hooved Animal Rescue to give up their horses this fall. We are out of room to house any more. If you are looking for another horse, whether it be a youngster, a riding horse, or just a companion, please let us know. We have been trying to keep a listing of these horses, and we may be able to find just the right match for you. There may or may not be an adoption fee, depending on what work the horse needs (we will not adopt out a horse that has not been Coggins tested, vaccinated, dewormed, teeth floated, etc. within the last year). I am sure as we get into winter, the humane cases will begin to roll in again, and we will also likely be looking for foster homes! Let us know if you might have room to stash a horse or two who needs temporary help.

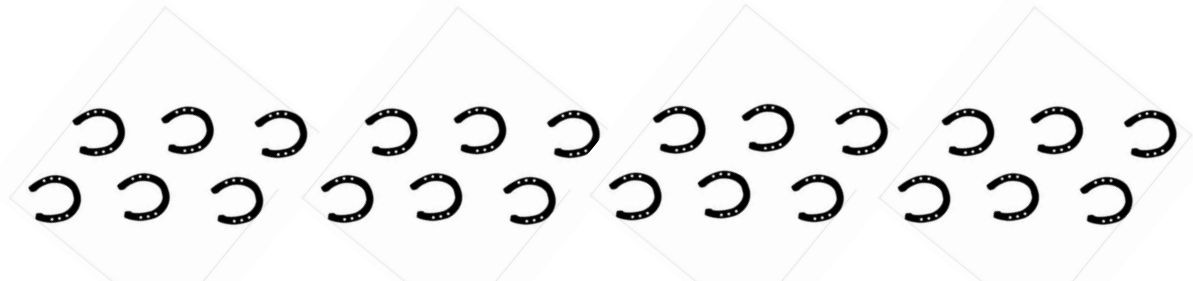
My first course in the Veterinary Forensics graduate program at the University of Florida is going well, although the material is often very disturbing. The course is entitled "Animal Abuse and Interpersonal Violence". I have learned that they will be adding some large animal and equine courses, and turning the program into a Master's Degree, which is exciting! Spring could be interesting, with a busy schedule at the clinic, foaling lots of mares, and course work (not to mention riding, and life!). Please be patient with me!

Congratulations to everyone out there who had very successful showing/competition seasons (you know who you are ; ) !!! We are so proud to be part of your horse health-care team, and excited to see what you accomplish next year.

Thanks once again for all your confidence and trust in me and my team, we really appreciate you and your horses!



"The horse's greatest need is a rider whose compassion trumps his ego" - Julie Suhr



## Winter Feeding Tips for Horses

As many of us have noticed, winter is starting to make its appearance here in Minnesota. The days are turning shorter and the nights are getting a little cooler. Along with having to physically and mentally prepare ourselves for the change of season, we also need to take the same steps for our horses. This is the time horse owners should start to make changes in their horses feed program. Here are some points to consider when preparing our horses for the colder weather.

### Water

Horses will often decrease their water consumption as the temperatures begin to drop. Always keep fresh water available, and when the temperatures dip below freezing make sure to check all water areas for ice. Having a heater in the water tank will ensure no ice builds up, however its important to make sure the heater is working.

Consider providing electrolytes and/or warmer water to encourage more drinking. If the electrolytes are added via water, provide a second bucket in case the horse won't drink the flavored electrolyte water.

### Forage

As pastures slow down in their regrowth going into fall and winter, it is important to provide hay as a main forage. Hay can provide a significant amount of a horse's daily nutritional needs, but also take note of the quality of the hay. If the hay is of lower quality more of it may need to be fed to meet the needs of the horses' nutritional requirements. If hay supply is low, consider some alternative for-

age sources, such as hay cubes, beet pulp, and complete feeds.

### Monitor Body Condition

Monitoring a horse's weight by using the body condition scoring chart will help owners adjust their feed programs accordingly in fall and winter. Remember, longer coats can be deceiving to the horse's actual condition, hands on checking is a must. If you own a hard keeper or elderly horse, additional calories might be needed to help them maintain an appropriate weight for winter months.

### Final Message

Colder weather requires horse owners to monitor their horse's nutrition program more carefully and possibly do more adjusting to meet the horse's nutritional needs. If specific questions arise, please do not hesitate to contact your veterinarian.



## Minnesota Hooved Animal Rescue



### Horse of the Month

#### **Full of Spice (Spice)**

Spice is registered American Saddlebred mare who was foaled in 2001. She came into the rescue from a Pine County humane case. Spice was also a student of 2012 Trainers Challenge and did quiet well. Since then she has been staying in a foster home.

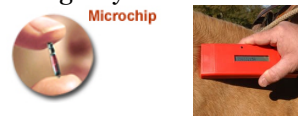


## Microchips for Horses

Microchipping has become a very common way to provide small animals such as dogs and cats with a second form of identification. But, we ask ourselves, “what about horses?” Over the past few years using microchips in horses has become increasingly popular. In fact, some countries and registries are now requiring horses to be microchipped. Here are some of the most commonly asked questions regarding microchips:

### **-How does it work?**

The microchip system is composed of two parts: a microchip and a scanner to read the chip. Each chip has a unique number programmed into it, and is small enough to fit into a hypodermic needle. The chip is quickly and easily injected into the nuchal ligament where it will stay for the life of the horse. When the scanner is passed over that area of the neck, the chip sends its number back to the scanner (radio wave signal) where it can be read on the screen. Once the microchip has been injected, it should be registered in the Equine Protection Registry. Stickers with the unique number are also included for owner/veterinarian records.



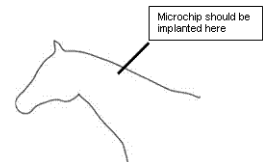
### **-Why should I microchip my horse?**

By microchipping your horse, you provide them with a permanent lifetime form of identification that cannot be altered and is unique to the individual horse. Horse owners use it for many different reasons, such as: proof of ownership, theft protection and recovery, natural disaster recovery, health papers, farm management, and second registry ID.

### **-Where is the chip implanted?**

The microchip goes into the nuchal ligament which is just below the mane about half way between the poll and withers on the left side. It's a fast procedure and generally doesn't require any special sedation.

We hope that this provided a little bit of insight on microchips. They have proven to be very a helpful tool in both small animals and horses. When it comes to the well being of the horse we should ask ourselves “why not” instead of “why”. To gain more insight and information on equine microchips please visit: [www.microchipsequine.com](http://www.microchipsequine.com)



### Looking for Feline company?

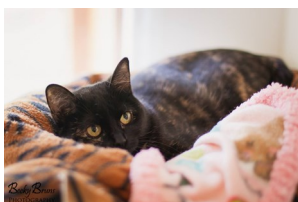
### Don't shop, Adopt!



Lucky's Place in Sauk Rapids was established in March of 2004 and is a non-profit, no kill animal shelter. They always have wide range of cats and kittens to choose from.

A few furry felines available for adoption:

To meet Gilda, Kanga, Tucker, and the rest of the cats available please contact Jan at Lucky's Place.



GILDA



KANGA



TUCKER

Phone: 320-241-1829

Email: [jan@luckysplace.org](mailto:jan@luckysplace.org)



## Spring Work Reminders

As many of you know, we at Siete Leguas Equine Veterinary Services continually strive to provide the highest level of equine care that we possibly can. With that being said, we would like to ask that all our clients please give a 2 to 3 week window when scheduling spring vet work. We have a lot of horses out there to see and try to accommodate everyone the best we possibly can.

Please note that payment is due at the time of service. If you as the owner are unable to be present at the visit, please make prior arrangements with the clinic for payment.

Also, please take time to fill out the Coggins Field Form at the time of vaccines and coggins (Equine Infectious Anemia) testing. This form helps to ensure that we have the correct information on each horse for their coggins.



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