



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You will see some changes at Florida Equine Veterinary Services this fall! First, we would like to welcome Dr. Jordan Taheri to FEVS! Dr. Taheri has met some of you so far and please give him a warm welcome when you see him. His interests are in dentistry, field surgery and ophthalmology.



Dr. Denney-Jones

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**PODIATRY DAY: Sept. 24  
@ FEVS CLINIC**

You and your farrier are invited to Podiatry Day on September 24 at the FEVS Clinic at 19801 County Road 561 in Clermont. This special one-day event will feature consultations by Dr. Steve O'Grady, in town from his predominately podiatry veterinary practice in Virginia for the Florida Horse Owners Seminar the following day. Bring your horse **and** farrier and get a consult for a small fee! Appointments are required: please call the FEVS office at 352-241-0183 or 1-800-546-3894 to make your reservation.

We have updated our website with descriptions of our services and more information and links. You will find us at [www.floridaequine.com](http://www.floridaequine.com). And please join us on facebook where you will receive weekly updates on equine issues and topics!

What hasn't changed since 1995 is our practice's commitment to offer veterinary care that helps to ensure optimum patient health, provide for early diagnosis and treatment of problems and minimize the costs of veterinary care for horse owners. We still strongly believe in the importance of preventive medicine, owner education, staff continuing education and round-the-clock emergency coverage.

We look forward to a cooler fall and a successful show season for all of our clients!

*E. Denney-Jones, DVM*

## EQUINE DENTISTRY: MAINTAINING YOUR HORSE'S TEETH

As you know, teeth are a very important part of your horse's life. Without them, your horse could not graze, chew grain or enjoy his/her treats. And while eating is exceptionally important to your horse's health, poorly managed equine teeth can result in more than just poor appetite.

Equine teeth are very remarkable structures. Most horses have 40 to 44 teeth and they extend from their lips all the way back to the curve of their jaw. Unlike human teeth that only erupt once, horse teeth continue to erupt over the majority of their life. Since horses are grazers, they wear their teeth down as they chew. In order to keep enough tooth above the gum to chew with, their teeth continue to erupt until they are into their twenties.

*Equine Dentistry, continued from cover*

While continual growth of a horse's teeth is necessary, it can cause problems. Because horses do not chew evenly on all surfaces of their teeth, some parts wear down faster than others. This leads to sharp points, hooks, ramps and waves. As a horse with any of these issues tries to chew his grain or collect onto his/her bit in competition, the unworn parts of the teeth dig into the sensitive gum and cause great pain. Imagine if you bit your gums every time you chewed food or took a step! Your pain would be similar to what a horse with poorly managed teeth feels every time he/she eats or collects onto a bit.

Thankfully, there is something that can be done! **Equine dental equilibration, or teeth floating**, can be used to remove the parts of the horse's teeth that are not wearing evenly. Due to the number of teeth horses have and the distance they cover in the mouth, there are certain features of equine dentistry that must be included in order to satisfactorily correct teeth issues.

One of the most important parts of high-quality dental care is a **thorough oral exam**. Each tooth should be seen and felt for any wear issues. Unless you have taught your horse to hold his/her mouth open, this exam requires a special speculum designed to hold the mouth open. The speculum not only allows your FEVS veterinarian to carefully inspect each tooth, but also gives access to the back of the mouth where many wear issues occur. Without a mouth speculum, it is very difficult to assess the very back teeth and nearly impossible to get float instruments in to correct problems.

How do we get your horse to wear a mouth speculum? That brings us to another important aspect of equine dentistry: adequate sedation. Without it, very few horses would allow a vet to use a speculum. This would result in numerous horses with adequately maintained front teeth, but terrible back teeth. The sedation also helps with pain control. Just like when you hold your mouth open and your jaw becomes tight, the same thing happens with horses. The sedation helps relax jaw muscles and prevents the discomfort that comes with having the mouth open for an extended period. The actual correction of the wear problems is done using



Normal Dentition in a horse.

various instruments from rotating dremels to traditional hand floats. These devices are used to file down the portions of the teeth causing problems and create an even wear surface.

To keep your horse healthy and happy in the show ring, your FEVS veterinarian recommends annual to bi-annual dental equilibration using appropriate sedation and a full mouth speculum. Call the FEVS office for an oral exam and equilibration recommendations.



"Horse Sense" is a quarterly publication of Florida Equine Veterinary Services.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list, give us a call or send us your address.

**(352) 241-0383**  
**(800) 546-3894**

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Clermont, FL 34712

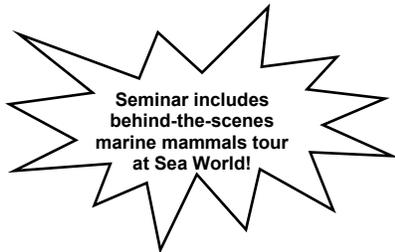
**[www.floridaequine.com](http://www.floridaequine.com)**

Have a question for "Ask the Vet"? Want to announce a new foal? Need information on a particular equine topic? Send us an email to [fevsoffice@aol.com](mailto:fevsoffice@aol.com).



is pleased to present:

13th Annual  
**FLORIDA HORSE OWNERS SEMINAR**



Featuring  
**The Equine Hoof**

September 25, 2010  
Sea World Orlando, FL

Introducing  
**Dr. Steve O'Grady**  
The Equine Foot: a look the structures and how they work  
It's not just navicular disease anymore  
Acute & chronic laminitis: the short version  
**Dr. John Peloso**  
MRI Use in Foot Evaluation  
Surgeries of the Foot

Florida Horse Owners Seminar, presented by Florida Equine Veterinary Services. September 25, 2010. Registration 9:30am. Seminar 10am-5pm. Sea World Port of Call, Orlando, FL.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
Email\* \_\_\_\_\_  
# Seminar attendees @ \$55 each \_\_\_\_\_  
Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Seminar \$55. *Price includes parking & tour of marine mammals at Sea World Orlando.*

\*Your confirmation will be sent to you via email.  
Charge my Visa \_\_\_\_\_ MC \_\_\_\_\_  
Account # \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration date \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Send check (payable to Florida Equine Veterinary Services) or credit card information to Florida Equine Veterinary Services, PO Box 120913, Clermont, FL 34712. Substitutions accepted. No refunds. Questions? 1-800-546-3894. Clermont 352-241-0383. Fax 352-241-0384.

**FEVS ACCEPTS CARECREDIT!**

Does this economy have you wondering how you're going to provide for your four-legged family? CareCredit can help! CareCredit is a credit card that can be used for the expenses incurred by taking care of your horse. But CareCredit is not just *another* credit card. It allows you to maintain your routine care and cover unforeseen emergencies. CareCredit offers six months free interest on all purchases, as well as extended payment plans with a decreased interest rate for larger purchases.

For more information, or to apply for your CareCredit card, visit [www.carecredit.com](http://www.carecredit.com) or call (800) 365-8295. The FEVS office accepts CareCredit for your FEVS equine services.

**FAREWELL TO DR. HELM**

Dr. Rachel Helm has finished her one year internship at Florida Equine Veterinary Services, Inc. She has moved to Pennsylvania for family reasons and is pursuing a career at the racetrack . We wish her well.

**OFFICE HOURS**

Call Lynne to make your horse appointment Monday through Friday 8-11am and 12-4pm.

Our office/clinic at 19801 CR 561 in Clermont is also open for drop-off's and pickups from 7:30-11am and 12-4:30pm.

Look for the next issue of Horse Sense in Fall 2010!



PO Box 120913  
Clermont, FL 34712

**Your horse's health is our business.**