

TIMBERCREST VET GAZETTE



Timbercrest Veterinary Service, 2021-2400th Street, Atlanta, IL 61723
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Timbercrest-History

Timbercrest Veterinary Service was started in 2003. Dr. Jason Miller purchased the original facility in the Atlanta, Illinois area from Osborn Industries, INC. on May 9, 2003. After an extensive remodeling process, Timbercrest was officially opened for business in September 2003. A large animal haul-in facility was completed in September 2006. Today, Timbercrest Veterinary Service continues to operate as a progressive, full service, mixed animal practice.

We endeavor to provide optimum care for our patients while maintaining a family friendly environment for our clients and pride ourselves in upholding a family atmosphere among our team. Our main concern is for the physical, mental and social needs of our patients. We do all we can to ensure our patients are living long, healthy and happy lives. We are committed to honest and ethical service. We will always act in the best interest of our patients and their families. Trust and integrity are the foundation of our practice. Above all else we care about the well being and comfort of our patients, their families and each other. Compassionate care and outstanding service are our commitment to you. We strive to offer the best possible treatment and preventions at a rate affordable to all our clients.

OPENING SOON...Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center

Timbercrest Veterinary Service is expanding its modern progressive services to the Lincoln Area. Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center will be a progressive, two doctor practice seeing to the needs of small animals. It will offer modern services such as:

- Large Retail Area - fully stocked with multiple lines of pet food, treats, leashes/collars, toys, and many other veterinary-recommended products
- In-House Grooming
- Boarding Facility - with separate wards for dogs and cats
- Digital Radiography
- Certified Veterinary Technicians on staff
- Interactive DIA (Diagnostic Imaging Atlas) in exam rooms for client education
- Canine Obedience Classes

Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center

1120 Keokuk St. Phone (217) 732-5700
Lincoln, IL 62656 Fax (217) 732-3700

Website: www.railsplittervet.com

Email: railsplitter@railsplittervet.com

Hours: M-F 7:30am-5:00pm
Sat 8:00am-12:00pm
Sun closed



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Trick-or-Treat!!



Bring your pets to either Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center or Timbercrest Veterinary Service on Saturday, October 30th from 8am-12pm for our special trick-or-treat event. Pictures will be taken of your pet in their favorite Halloween costume and entered into our "Best Dressed" contest on our website. The pet with the most votes will win a \$20 gift certificate to use in the retail area at either clinic. We will be handing out treats for your pets and information on how to keep them pet safe during the Halloween festivities.

Santa Paws



Santa will be visiting on Saturday, December 4th at Timbercrest Veterinary Service from 8am-12pm and Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center from 1-4pm. Bring your pets for a meet and greet and have their picture taken with Santa. Donations will be put towards a scholarship for a local student pursuing a career in Veterinary medicine.



Holiday Hours

Closed November 25th
Closed November 26th-Timbercrest only
Closed December 24th at noon
Closed December 25th
Closed December 31st at noon
Closed January 1st

Chocolate Toxicity

By: Michelle Godziewski

As Halloween approaches, it is important to remember that chocolate is toxic to your pets. Chocolate contains theobromine which is toxic to dogs in large enough quantities.

Approximately 100-150 mg/kg of theobromine needs to be ingested to cause a toxic reaction. However, there are several variables that need to be considered such as: individual sensitivity, animal size and type of chocolate.

Milk chocolate contains the least amount of the toxic theobromine, while baker's chocolate contains the most. Using a dose of 100 mg/kg as the toxic dose, a pet would have to eat 1 ounce per 1 pound of body weight for Milk chocolate, 1 ounce per 3 pounds of body weight for Semisweet chocolate and 1 ounce per 9 pounds of body weight for Baker's chocolate to reach toxic levels. For example, a 6 lb Yorkie would need to ingest 7 oz of Milk Chocolate (the equivalent to the size of 35 Hershey Kisses) or just 1 oz of Baker's chocolate (the equivalent to size of just 5 Hershey Kisses) to reach toxic levels.

Theobromine affects the nervous system, cardiovascular system and peripheral nerves. Clinical signs after chocolate ingestion can be as general as vomiting and diarrhea, or as specific as increased excitement or irritability, restlessness, increased heart rate, muscle tremors and increased urination.

There is not a specific antidote for chocolate toxicity. If you think your pet has ingested any amount of chocolate **call us immediately!** When you call be ready to answer the following questions:

- 1.) How long ago did your pet ingest the chocolate?
- 2.) What kind of chocolate was it?
- 3.) How much was ingested?
- 4.) How much does your pet weigh?



Remember...Chocolate is not the only thing that can cause an upset stomach and diarrhea. Watch out for other candy and tablet scraps as well!



Fleas stick around for Thanksgiving and Christmas!

By: Dana Daugherty

Now that it is officially fall and harvest is well underway, most of us in central Illinois know the first frost is just around the corner. With this first hard frost, many dog and cat owners find themselves thinking they are off the hook when it comes to fleas. Unfortunately, this is not the case.

The fact is that external parasites, such as fleas and ticks, can survive the cold winter months, especially in the comfort of a warm home. During the fall and winter, outdoor dogs and cats are less likely to pick up fleas from their outdoor environment. However, indoor environments and pets that have not been treated enable fleas to thrive year-round. Our doctors at Timbercrest Veterinary Service highly recommend that pets be treated for fleas every month, regardless of the season. In addition to treating the pet, it is also essential that the environment be treated as well. Frequent vacuuming and immediately disposing of the vacuum contents can be beneficial.

A great product for year-round flea prevention in dogs is the FDA-approved *Comfortis tablet* which is similar to popular topical flea preventatives *Frontline* and *Advantage*. *Comfortis* lasts for 30 days and kills fleas before they lay eggs. What sets *Comfortis* apart is that it comes in the form of a beef flavored chewable tablet. No longer do you have worry about timing baths, greasy spots at the site of the application, or isolating pets. Just administer the tablet once a month and consider yourself safe from fleas for yet another month.

While *Comfortis* is not approved for use in cats, topical products *Frontline* and *Advantage* are still great ways to keep fleas at bay during these upcoming cold months. *Comfortis*, *Frontline*, *Advantage*, and *K9 Advantix* are still available at Timbercrest Veterinary Service and our new clinic Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center in Lincoln, IL.



Cold weather tips for your companion animals

- ❖ Do not leave your pet in a parked vehicle at any time.
- ❖ Provide an insulated, dry shelter for outdoor pets.
- ❖ Do not leave your pet outside for long periods of time on cold days.
- ❖ Keep your pet inside when weather conditions are severe.
- ❖ Provide fresh, unfrozen water.
- ❖ Remove ice and frozen mud from your pet.
- ❖ Avoid partially frozen ponds, lakes, and rivers when walking your pet.

Signs of hypothermia:

- ❖ Shivering
- ❖ Weakness and lethargy
- ❖ Pale or bluish gums

Signs of frostbite:

- ❖ Painful skin
- ❖ Reddish, white, or grey skin
- ❖ Sloughing skin

Please contact your veterinarian if your pet is exhibiting signs of hypothermia or frostbite.

Dr. Teal Summitt

Hello! My name is Dr. Teal Summitt and I am the new associate veterinarian at Timbercrest Veterinary Service. I grew up just across the state line in Boswell, Indiana on my family's grain farm. I was active in 4-H, FFA, and other agricultural related activities when I was younger and enjoyed showing horses and sheep throughout the summer. I graduated from Purdue University in 2010 where I did my undergraduate studies as well as vet school. I practice both small and large animal medicine and enjoy the variation between small animal and livestock. I was married recently in July 2010 and my husband and I have moved to Atlanta, Illinois. We are so excited about being here and have enjoyed the community atmosphere.

Old friends are the best antiques

A "senior" horse is defined as older than 15 years of age. Just because these horses are considered to be in their "golden years" doesn't mean that they have to look it. Many older horses can lose weight quite quickly, which can be a problem, especially going into the colder winter season. It can be a frustrating situation for owners because they feed as much or more than what they always have and see unfavorable results. There are three big reasons that older horses do not keep weight on: dental problems, parasite problems, and insufficient feed content. A horse's teeth grow continually throughout life and require filing down anywhere from every 6 months to once every 2 years depending on age and individual needs. Having your horse's teeth checked by a veterinarian and having them floated (filed down) if needed is a beneficial place to start when solving a weight loss problem.

Another common problem is parasites. There are several gastrointestinal worms that can rob a horse of nutrients that can be controlled with deworming. We recommend deworming every 2-6 months depending on the situation and rotating products throughout the year. Ivermectin/Moxidectin should be used twice a year with one of these times being right after the first good frost. Pyrantel and Fenbendazole dewormers should be used once a year at some point in the rotation.

Lastly, a good feed is imperative for keeping a horse in good condition. Your horse's nutrition changes as it ages and so should the feed. Top dressing the feed with Sweet Feed or corn oil can easily add extra calories. Sweet Feed and Senior Feed have increased protein content which older horses may need. If you switch feeds, make gradual changes as not to cause colic. Lastly, switching to a pelleted feed and/or soaking the feed in warm water to make a mash can improve digestibility. If these suggestions do not show any improvements, a blood panel should be performed. This can show important information for several body systems which can lead to a diagnosis of why an older horse keeps losing weight.

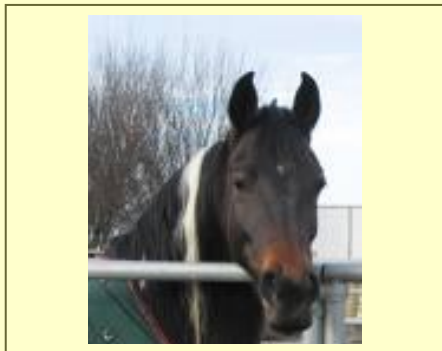
The New Dormosedan Gel

Dormosedan is a common injectable drug used for equine sedation for many common veterinary procedures such as laceration repair and teeth floating. It is now offered in a prescription oral gel form that can be easily dosed by owners and handlers to provide mild sedation and easier restraint. It is a perfect solution for slightly nervous horses that dislike non-veterinary maintenance procedures such as shoeing, body and bridal path clipping, mane pulling, sheath cleaning, and turning out jumpy horses for the first time in a new pasture. It should be used alone without any supplemental sedatives (such as Acepromazine) as these could cause harmful effects when combined. Dormosedan Gel comes in a single dose syringe. Each dose takes about 40 minutes to take effect and lasts 1 1/2 to 3 hours. Additional dosing will prolong the effect of the drug without increasing the sedation effect. It is important to keep horses in a quiet area during treatment so that the drug can properly take effect. While recovering from sedation, horses should not be allowed to eat or drink. Call us today for more information about the new Dormosedan Gel!

*****NOTICE*****

There has been a confirmed case of Eastern Equine Encephalitis in southeast Cook county Illinois in September of 2010. EEE (also called "Sleeping Sickness") is a virus transmitted by mosquitoes causing inflammation of the brain followed by neurological symptoms. It can also be transmitted to humans by infected mosquitoes. Prevention is easily accomplished by giving annual vaccinations to your horse(s) as it is part of our core vaccine protocol at Timbercrest Veterinary Service. Please call us if you have any questions or concerns about EEE.

"Many older horses can lose weight quite quickly, which can be a problem, especially going into the colder winter season."





Feed Grade Antibiotics

By Dr. Jason Miller

One has to make difficult decisions everyday of their life. Obviously some are more difficult than others. The most difficult part of making decisions is the emotional effect. Many times, our emotions cloud our ability to make reasonable decisions. Veterinarians are faced with a tremendous number of decisions in regards to every patient's visit. Our job is to evaluate every patient and to utilize our science-based knowledge to make decisions. Not everyone, however, decides to use science to provide a strong foundation for their arguments.

Recently, our Congress has proposed multiple laws based on very poor science that will have a tremendous emotional effect on the general public. Congress is proposing to restrict antibiotic use in food producing animals based on the assumption that there is a link to antibiotic resistance in humans. These proposed laws have no scientific merit that a link even exists. These laws are proposed based on the emotional decisions that our food would be safer to eat without the use of antibiotics. This couldn't be farther from the truth! Scientists agree that the widespread use, misuse, and overuse, of antibiotics to treat diseases in humans is the primary cause for the increase in resistant bacteria, not the feed grade antibiotics in our food producing animals. Our nation has the safest food supply in the world. Science would accurately predict that safety issues would increase without the use of antibiotics in our food producing animals. When producers make the decision to use feed grade antibiotics, they are also taking into consideration the food safety for the consumer as well. Food safety has been enhanced by the reduction of food-borne pathogens that can result in consumer illness.

Let's keep our food supply wholesome, fresh, and safe by informing our Congressman and working to make decisions based on sound science and not emotions.



Don't forget the cows!!

By: Kerianne Vrbas

Fall is a good time to vaccinate your cow herd. Producers should make the most of this trip through the chute by checking for pregnancy, applying products to control parasites, brucellosis vaccinating heifers (if desired), as well as administering their semi-annual vaccinations.

Pregnancy testing is important because it is not cost effective to vaccinate and provide parasite control on the cows found open which should soon be sold. Most producers will sell cows that are open (not pregnant) since there is no profit from feeding the cow through the winter without her producing a calf.

We recommend to treat your cows and heifers with a 7-way Clostridium vaccine, a deworm/grub control/lice control application, a 5-way Leptospirosis/Vibriosis vaccine, and a scour vaccine. Cows are vaccinated to increase the immune protection from commonly transmitted diseases such as Bovine Viral Diarrhea Virus (BVDV), Infectious Bovine Rhinotracheitis (IBR), Bovine Respiratory Syncytial Virus (BRSV), and Para-Influenza (PI-3). By vaccinating, you can also strengthen the antibody "package" in the colostrum. Thus, a regular vaccination program is an insurance policy that can help protect two animals for the price of one: the cow and the calf. This is particularly important for protection of neonatal calves from common pathogens that cause diarrhea from Escherichia coli, and rota- and corona viruses.

If cows are not treated for lice and grubs it could be costly for the producer. During the cold months of winter, the lice and grubs will cause additional stress on the cow and will in turn drain her energy reserves. The cow will experience weight loss, reduced feed conversion, anemia, and it can sometimes lead to death. When the cow is fighting these parasites, it will draw away from her energy to produce milk to feed her calf. This consequently will reduce weaning weights of your herd and lead to decreased productivity.

While the cow is in the chute it is also a good time to check for other problems that might lead to a decrease in production. Check eyes for cancer lesions. If they are caught soon enough, they can be treated before they become malignant. Check the face and jaw for lumps. Determine whether they are soft tissue abscesses that need to be drained or bony infections. Be sure to check your cow's teeth. An older cow that is losing teeth will not be able to chew food properly and will not be able to maintain weight to keep in proper body condition. Checking the cow's udder can also be a smart marketing decision. If a cow has a bad udder, her amount of lactation will decrease significantly.

Fall is one of the producer's best opportunities to make management decisions that will in turn improve the herd health situation and financial outcome. This is also a good chance to have "hands-on" knowledge of every cow to know how they are producing and working for you!

Preconditioning Programs for calves

Preconditioning by definition is a vaccination, nutrition, and management program designed to prepare young cattle to withstand the stress associated with weaning and shipment to a background yard or feedlot. These programs are most effective if the calves are exposed to the stresses of weaning, vaccinations, castration, dehorning, treating for parasites, and if desired implanting, well in advance to entering the background yard or feedlot. It is recommended that the calves receive two rounds of vaccines. The first round needs to be administered while the calf is still on the cow so they can build up their immunity prior to weaning. The second round will be administered when the calf is weaned two weeks later. This round is to provide a booster for the calves. Vaccinations by themselves will not provide adequate immunity for the calves. They need to be accompanied by several other management strategies that are essential for the calves' success in the feedlot. If producers introduce a preconditioning program, it will help prevent or reduce the incidence of morbidity and mortality later. However, NO one vaccine program or preconditioning program will meet the needs of all backgrounding or feedlot operations.

The nutritional goal of these programs is aimed at acclimating calves to eat processed feeds rather than relying on their mother's milk and grass. Calves will adjust to drylot feeding more easily if they have been exposed to processed feeds before weaning. Use caution when feeding high concentrate rations as calves will experience acidosis, founder, and bloat if not properly acclimated to eating high grain diets.

Controlling internal and external parasites is an important part of any preconditioning program. In general, all calves should receive a systemic dewormer according to label instructions prior to or at weaning. If they are to remain on a drylot, they should not have to be treated again but if they are returned to grass, they will need a second round of systemic dewormer.

Development of an effective vaccination, nutrition, and parasite control program during the preconditioning period should result in lower morbidity and mortality when calves are placed in a backgrounding yard or in a feedlot. The specific vaccines needed may vary from herd to herd. An effective nutrition program will enhance performance and get the calves adjusted more quickly to drylot feeding. Consult your veterinarian for help in developing your herd specific preconditioning program

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Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 3rd- University of Illinois Veterinary Medicine Open House

Time: 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: 3505 VMBSB 2001 South Lincoln Ave., Urbana, IL 61802

Saturday, October 30th - Trick-or-Treat

Time: 8-12pm-Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center

8-12pm-Timbercrest Veterinary Service

Monday, November 1st-Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center-
open for business

Time: 9:15 am-Ribbon cutting ceremony

Saturday, December 4 - Santa Paws

Time: 8-12am-Timbercrest Veterinary Service

1-4pm-Railsplitter Veterinary Wellness Center

Check us out on Facebook!!



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