



March 24, 2022

Hello Spring!! Well, it is Indiana, sooooo we will hopefully have nice warm days, but we may also have snow. At least the days stay light longer! Moving on to other topics; It's time to trim our horses' feet, and get them vaccinated, maybe your horse has had a new baby!!

As a club, we had our first get-together at Mansfield Park. The Mexican pitch-in was delicious. It was great to see all of you that we're able to make it! Some of us got our trail passes for Prairie Creek and renewed our club memberships. If you still need a trail pass, they should be available at the next meeting at the barn, Monday, April 11 at 6:30. We will make a fun gnome craft! Yayyyy!!

We had to change the date of our trail clean-up. **It will NOT be April 9th, it will now be Sat. April 30th.** 9am-noon, lunch, and 1-4 pm (if the morning shift doesn't work for you).

I am sure our horses are glad to see spring and green grass arrive as much as we are. We want to make sure our horses stay healthy. One thing we have to watch out for is giving our horses too much fresh green grass in the spring. Here is an article I found that might be helpful.



Swing into Spring! Tips to Prevent Founder in Horses

Posted by Dr. Shannon Baker, DVM, Wed, Mar 12, 2014



Spring is approaching—a time when the grass turns green, the flowers bloom and the sun shines. While it may be picturesque to see our horses out grazing on lush

spring pasture, an abrupt switch from hay and brown pasture over the winter to the green grass of spring can cause a major disruption in your horse's GI flora, potentially resulting in colic and/or founder.

Founder, also known as laminitis, may be caused by several things, one of which is an abrupt change in diet—particularly consumption of lush green grass. The high soluble carbohydrate content (sugars) in the grass will allow for the overgrowth of “bad” bacteria and the death of “good” normal bacteria in the GI tract.

While the exact mechanism is still up for debate, we know that toxins are released which attack the lamina—i.e., the soft tissue structure that attaches the hoof to the bone. When this attachment is damaged, it causes a lot of pain and possible sinking and rotation of the bone within the hoof. Treatment of laminitis is complicated and costly. Prevention is the key.

- Preventing founder in a normal horse with no predisposing factors (such as prior episodes of founder, Cushing's disease, metabolic syndrome or insulin resistance) is simply a matter of making dietary changes gradually. Even if your horse has been out on pasture all winter, the grass can turn green very quickly and cause founder. In this case, you should start feeding hay prior to the grass turning green as a buffer. Then you can gradually decrease the amount of hay fed as the grass grows and gets greener.
- If your horse has been eating strictly hay and staying in a dry lot with no access to pasture over the winter, initially you will want to continue feeding your horse in the same way you have been. In the morning, feed hay as usual, decreasing the concentrate (grain) by about 50%. This will allow your horse to fill up on hay prior to turnout. Then turn your horse out on grass for a couple of hours each day for a week. Feed hay again as usual in the evening. The second week, turn your horse out for four to six hours a day. The third week, turn them out all day. This will give the bacteria in their GI tract time to adjust.

I hope your horses stay healthy and happy this spring and you get to camp and ride and have a wonderful spring!

God Bless!
Lisa Cron
President
Muncie Light Horse Club

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