



BACK IN THE SADDLE

AUG/SEPT 2023

Presidents Letter



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Vice President, Julie Carter
Secretary, Lisa Taylor
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Board of Directors

Rickie Sipe
Greg Wilkins
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Hello MLHC members!

Wow! Summer is flying by! It has been a while since I wrote out a newsletter! I am so sorry! I hope everyone has had a chance to do some fun and relaxing things this summer with your family, friends, and critters.

We have had some fun working at the Indiana Celebration Tennessee Walking Horse Show and the Muncie Dragway Night of Fire. We were given \$1000 for working the horse show and \$1200 for parking cars and taking tickets at the dragstrip.

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made these events successful. We will put the money to good use for trail maintenance and various charities. Welcome to our new members who joined while we were there!!!

2023 Member Meetings

September 11th

Member Meeting @ MLHC Barn / Mexican-Taco pitch-in (bring your own drinks)

October 16th

Member Meeting @ MLHC Barn / Chili cook off & a fun Halloween craft (bring your own drinks)

November 13th

Member Meeting/2024 Elections @ Mansfield Park / Pitch-In

We took a field trip to the Shelbyville Horse Track and Casino on Saturday, August 19th. We watched a couple of races and enjoyed a great meal before heading home.

Where have you been camping and riding? Some of our members will be at Brown County Labor Day weekend. There will be a group of us at **O'Bannon Oct. 11-15**. We also go to Brown County for Halloween Oct 27-29. Let us know where you are riding!

Please contact me or one of our board members if you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions!

Volunteers Needed

We would like to have one more trail/barn clean-up in the Fall. Stay tuned for the date.

Remember the more help we have the lighter the work.

Happy Trails!!

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Muncie Light Horse Club (501c3 nonprofit organization, your donations are tax-deductible)

**GOOD
VIBES
ONLY**

Make sure to check out the link on www.muncielighthorseclub.com for more local events around the area.

Have you seen a horse or your horse spit out a glob of balled-up hay? Well, check out this article by Katherine Blocksdorf posted in the Spruce Pets website(www.thesprucepets.com)! It is VERY interesting.

Quidding - When Your Horse Spits Out Wet Bundles of Hay

By Katherine Blocksdorf

Updated on 11/13/19

Are you finding strange lumps of hay that look a bit like bird's nests gone awry in your horse's stall or paddock? These lumps are called quids and mean it's time to call your veterinarian or equine dentist. A horse that quids isn't swallowing its food properly and that can cause it to lose condition as it doesn't get the nutrition it needs. Another word for this is cudging as the wad of hay or grass looks like the cuds that cows regurgitate to chew after grazing.

Symptoms

Just looking at your horse, it may not be apparent that there is a problem in its mouth. A sharp eye may be able to spot muscle imbalances and irregularities in the way the horse chews.

However, most people will first notice a horse is quidding when they find the partially chewed boluses of hay strewn around the feeder or see the horse spilling large quantities of grain out of its mouth when it eats. Those soggy lumps of mashed hay are a sure sign that something is going on in your horse's mouth that needs the attention of a veterinarian or equine dentist. You might also notice your horse has very bad breath if the quidding is caused by an infection somewhere in the horse's mouth. Horses that quid are also at risk of choke, so it's important to look after this problem as soon as you notice it.

Causes

There are different causes why horses are unable to chew properly and start to quid. The most common reason is that the horse has dental problems. Overgrown or fractured teeth, infected gums, teeth with sharp edges, or missing teeth can impair the way the horse chews. Overgrown, broken, or sharp teeth may cause the horse to lacerate the inside of its cheek or tongue when it chews. As a result, it might not completely chew some food because of the pain.

Another cause of quidding is that the horse may have a foreign object wedged somewhere in its mouth, and this too can cause the horse to only partially chew its food. A horse that has a jaw injury may not be able to chew properly. And, paralysis, such as what can be caused by a viral disease such as EEE may also prevent a horse from being able to chew properly.

Diagnoses

Finding wet lumps of partially chewed hay or grass is a sure sign that something is going on in your horse's mouth that needs attention. A horse that quids may also drool out a lot of its grain because it's unable to grind the grain with its teeth.

Treatment

A veterinarian or equine dentist can float any long or sharp teeth, extract broken or infected ones, or treat an infection in your horse's mouth. This may be all it takes to stop the quidding. If the horse has severe or longstanding dental problems, it may take more than one floating to get its mouth back into shape.

Treatment - Continued

Because the horse has been compensating for the pain in its mouth, it could take a while before it redevelops its facial muscles and feels comfortable enough to chew its food more thoroughly. Some horses may continue to quid out of habit.

If dental work isn't needed or doesn't stop the quidding, a veterinarian can help you determine if a jaw injury such as a dislocation or fracture is causing the problem. Chances are if your horse has a neurological disease that prevents it from eating properly, you'll already be treating it for that, and once the horse has recovered, the quidding should go away too. For older horses that have very worn or missing teeth, there may be no actual treatment beyond making sure the horse is fed fodder and concentrates that are very easy for it to chew and swallow. This might include soaking the feed or feeding mashes that aren't hard to chew.

While you are waiting for the vet or dentist to treat your horse, be sure to provide it with easy-to-chew feed. This may include water-soaked chopped hay or hay cubes and beet pulp. Concentrates should be easy to chew—no large pelleted feed and your horse may be able to consume it more easily if it's wetted. If a broken tooth or infection is causing the problem, offering slightly warmed water may help your horse drink more comfortably.

Prevention

Regular dental care is important throughout your horse's life. Most horses need to have their teeth floated at least once a year. As your horse ages, you will have to modify its feed, perhaps offering fodder and concentrates that are easier to chew, swallow, and digest. Horses with severe loose teeth or worn teeth will benefit from having their feed wetted. To avoid viral and neurological problems, regular vaccinations are essential.

If you suspect your pet is sick, call your vet immediately. For health-related questions, always consult your veterinarian, as they have examined your pet, know the pet's health history, and can make the best recommendations for your pet.





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2023 Event Calendar

September 11th - Member Meeting @ MLHC Barn with guest speaker Stacy Hutson w/her beautiful donkey. It is a Mexican-taco-themed pitch-in, bring your own drink, and something to share at the pitch-in.

October 16th - Member Meeting @ MLHC Barn for a CHILI COOK-OFF and a fun Halloween Craft, Bring your own drink, and something to share at the pitch-in.

December 3rd - MLHC Christmas Party @ Muncie Shrine Club