

Equine & Canine

Chiropractic + Massage



With the current rain I wonder if summer is going to come back but we have had a few hot days in the spring and if the temperature picks up again we have to take extra care of our animals.

Water



I can't over emphasise the importance of always having drinking water available for your animals.

Horses drink 3-4% of their body weight every day in normal conditions, so the average 550kg horse would drink around 22 litres of water. This can go up to 50 litres in hot weather or after hard work.

Dogs are far more susceptible to heat stroke as they have their fur coat all year round and can only sweat through the pads on their feet. They also expel heat through panting but this is less effective than sweating. Also dogs with pushed back faces, such as Bulldogs, Pugs and Boxers, have smaller airways, and therefore have less ability to blow out hot air.

So in hot weather it might be a good idea to provide a paddling pool with water for your dog to cool down in as well as plenty of drinking water.



Exercise for both horses and dogs should be done early or late in the day when it is a bit cooler.

This becomes a problem when competing in the summer and you have to ride in the heat. Ensure you have sufficient water and if necessary ice to hand to rapidly cool your horse down again. It has been shown that cooling a hot, sweaty horse with ice water is the most effective method and does not lead to "tying-up". If your horse regularly sweats a lot it is advisable to include electrolytes in his food to replace minerals lost in sweat.

NEWSLETTER Summer 2011

Signs of heat stress/ stroke

In horses you need to watch for:

- Increased respiratory rate at rest
- Increase pulse at rest or one that does not come down after exercise
- Profuse sweating or no sweating at all
- Dehydration, seen by pinching skin and it does not rapidly flatten again
- Body temperature above 41°C
- Lethargy
- Going off food

Dogs exhibit similar symptoms:

- Rapid heavy panting
- Drooling
- Petechiae (pinpoint, deep-red haemorrhages on gums/ skin)
- Bright red mucous membranes on the gums and conjunctiva of the eyes
- Hyperventilation (gasping for air)
- Salivation early then dry gums as heat prostration sets in
- Staring, glassy eyes
- Anxious expression
- Fever
- Rapid heartbeat



If you suspect heat-stroke in your dog call the Vet immediately as in some extreme cases seizures, diarrhoea and vomiting can occur.

So hopefully we'll have a summer to enjoy and look after your animals in the heat.

Quote of the month

I have just three things to teach: simplicity, patience, compassion. These three are your greatest treasures.

Lao Tzu

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