

EQUESTRIAN & Real Estate News



Devon Carter Camilleri Recognized, Respected, Recommended April 2012 Issue

Beware Of Spring Grass

Spring is in the air and the flowers, budding trees and pastures turning green are a wonderful sight. But all this new green grass can cause big problems for your horse or pony. Horse's digestive systems are very sensitive to change. Like a kid in a candy store, some horses will "pig out" on the new grass and the result can be a serious case of founder or colic.

Colic is a horse's belly-ache. But a belly-ache in a horse is life threatening. The first reason for this is because unlike humans, once food passes into the stomach of a horse they cannot vomit or regurgitate it. If a human ate so much that the stomach could simply not hold or process the food (or if the food was contaminated) it would come back up. In the horse it continues to build acids and pressure causing severe damage.

The second reason has to do with the horse's anatomy and lack of reasoning ability. When you or I have a stomachache, we can reason that it is probably something we ate or the stomach flu. We generally take some medication and lie down to rest. The horse however, only knows that it is in pain. In their attempt to rid themselves of the pain, they will lie down and roll from side to side. Because of the way the intestines lie inside the horse, this violent rolling can result in one of the intestines being twisted. This makes any further passage of food and/or feces impossible and the horse will die without surgery.

Early symptoms of colic include tail-switching, pawing, looking back at and kicking at the abdomen. It progresses very quickly to sweating, lying down and getting up frequently, and rolling on the ground. If you notice these signs call a veterinarian immediately. While you are waiting for the vet, keep the horse on his feet. Usually this requires continuous walking because as soon as the horse stops he will want to lie down and roll.

There are many causes and types of colic. If the horse has consumed too much green grass the colic could be the result of an impaction in one of the intestines as it tries to process the grass. The carbohydrate load of the green grass can also change the bacterial balance in the intestines, leading to the release of lactic acid and endotoxins. This condition can also cause founder.

Founder (properly referred to as Laminitis) is a disease that causes irreversible damage to the horse's hooves. The release of endotoxins increases the blood flow while constricting the small capillary vessels that nourish the sensitive inner structures of the feet. The result is a swelling of the laminae (the inner structures of the hoof including the bones, cartilage, tissue, ligaments and tendons). Since the outer shell of the hoof is rigid, the swelling compresses and does more and more damage. If left untreated the inner hoof structure will die and the horse will have to be destroyed.

Ponies and overweight horses have the highest risk of Grass Founder. Horses that are pastured on lush fast growing pastures, especially pastures containing clover and alfalfa, are also at risk.

Founder can also be caused by overfeeding grain (Grain Founder), allowing overheated horses to drink large amounts of cold water (Water Founder), riding for long periods of time on very hard surfaces such as pavement or cement (Road Founder), or as a complication after foaling (Postpartum Laminitis).

Symptoms of founder are high fever, chills, sweating, diarrhea, and rapid heavy breathing. The feet will be hot and painful. The horse will alternately pick his feet up, or he may lie down. If you know where to find the pulse on the fetlock, it will be fast and pounding. If you suspect your horse or pony is foundering, call the veterinarian immediately. Do not make the horse move more than necessary and get the feet in cold water if possible. Do not let the horse eat. If you have mineral oil on hand and can squirt it down his throat do so. Your veterinarian will most likely administer it with a stomach tube in amounts of 3 to 4 quarts per 1,000 pounds of body weight.

If your horse is never kept in a stall and is does not have very fast growing grasses like clover or alfalfa in his pasture, you do not need to worry about new green grass. The gradual rate that grass grows in, along with the fact that your horse is eating it constantly and consistently puts him at very low/no risk of colic or founder.

If you have a very overweight horse or a pony – even if they are pasture kept most or all of the time – you would be wise to take them off the pasture and feed them hay for part of the day during this time of year. Some ponies are so sensitive they can only be allowed one to two hours of pasture time a day. You can gradually increase the amount of pasture time so that by summer most horses and ponies can enjoy unlimited pasture time again.

Another risk factor is whether or not your horse or pony has foundered in the past. If a horse or pony founders once, he will be predisposed to do it again. The damage from a previous case of founder will leave horizontal ridges that go all the way around the outside of the hoof. Repeated cases will make the toe curl up. All hooves will curl up in this way if left to grow untrimmed for extremely long periods of time (like your fingernails would curl under if you never cut them) but severely foundered horse's hooves may look like wooden Dutch shoes even when properly trimmed. If you are considering buying a horse that has these ridges or wavy lines on the feet, be sure to have x-rays taken before you buy to determine the extent of the damage to the coffin bone inside the foot.

If you have a horse that is stall kept and turned out for part of the day do not suddenly turn him out for much longer periods of time (3-4 hour difference) because the weather is so nice. Wait until grasses are fully established in your pastures and your horse has had time to adjust to them before gradually increasing turnout time. If your pastures are very lush, you may need to reduce turnout time for a month or so, then gradually increase it again.

April Equestrian Events Barn Tips for Spring

- **April 7, Sunland/Tujunga - Free Horsemanship clinic! Special Offer! Bring your horse to the Weston Transformation Workshop, 1st Saturday of every month, Call to reserve your spot. Limited seating. Starts at 9:30 AM. Contact Celie Weston Horsemanship at 818-352-7709 or Email cw@celieweston.com.**
- **April 7, Woodcrest - Monthly clinics with [Jutta Schott](#) Feitlehrer FN, Saturdays Starting at 9am to 1:30pm Contact Listons Stables for more information www.listonstables.com**
- **April 14, Woodcrest - Monthly clinics with [Jutta Schott](#) Feitlehrer FN, Saturdays Starting at 9am to 1:30pm Contact Listons Stables for more information www.listonstables.com**
- **April 19 - 22, Del Mar - Western Week, Del Mar National, <http://www.delmarnational.com/western.html>**
- **April 21, Woodcrest - Monthly clinics with [Jutta Schott](#) Feitlehrer FN, Saturdays Starting at 9am to 1:30pm Contact Listons Stables for more information www.listonstables.com**
- **April 21-22, Somis - Fiesta del Sueno Schooling Jumping Derby & Hunter/Jumper Schooling Show. Contact: Samie Valla esecshowmanager@gmail.com www.elsuenoequestrian.com or pre-enter www.horseshowtime.com**
- **April 21-22, Laguna Niguel - Touch Balancing / Animal Bowen Workshop, Special Equine & Canine Module One, Spine, Sacrum, Coccyx, Neck and TMJ. A gentle, hands-on therapy that combines the benefits of chiropractic, massage, lymph drainage and myofascial release in one technique. This class is applicable for horse owners, veterinarians and horse professionals. www.animalbowen.com**
- **April 26-29, Del Mar - Dressage Week, Del Mar National, <http://www.delmarnational.com/dressage.html>**
- **April 28, Woodcrest - Monthly clinics with [Jutta Schott](#) Feitlehrer FN, Saturdays Starting at 9am to 1:30pm Contact Listons Stables for more information www.listonstables.com**
- **April 28, Moorepark - "Cowboy BBQ & Trail Ride", All net proceeds will go to support St Jude Children's Hospital. Explore a real working cattle ranch including a Cowboy BBQ courtesy of H Cattle Ranch. Contact: Janice Thompson-818-837-7110 or jthomps7110@yahoo.com**

- **Prevent stables from flooding next year.** Now is the time to find out where the drainage problems are and make plans to correct them before next year. Taking photos of the problem will help you decide what action to take and show a contractor exactly what needs to be or repaired.
- **Clean stalls right down to the floor** and allow them to dry thoroughly on a bright breezy day. Let as much sunlight in as possible-it's a great disinfectant.
- **Stalls with dirt floors** may need to have the top layer removed and new soil brought in.
- **Spring clean:** clear out accumulated feed bags, baler twine, clean windows, sweep down dust and chaff.
- **When sweeping out aisles** put dust and manure in the wheel barrow or muck bucket, don't sweep it out the door. Built up manure, chaff and dust holds more moisture than plain dirt. In wet weather your doorways will turn into a muckier mess than if this area is kept manure & chaff free.
- **Check for rodent chews** on wiring.
- **Sweep out the hay loft.** If the chaff is too dusty for horses to eat put it on your garden. It makes great mulch.
- **Spring clean run-in shelters** too. Remove any manure, bedding, or spilled feed and consider replacing soil if it has become too saturated.



If you have an event that you would like me to include in an upcoming newsletter, email me the information at

Devon@RanchAndEstateHomes.com

When you find yourself in a hole, it's time to stop digging.

-Will Rogers



Gavilan Mountain Colonial ~ Fallbrook

Gorgeous panoramic views sunrise to sunset from this custom built 4 Bed/3 Bath home, features include grand entry, very large gourmet kitchen with island, large rooms, over 2000 sq. ft of decks, tile and wood flooring throughout, 3 car attached garage with extra rooms for gym, office or wine cellar, on 1.32 Acres with RV parking and horse facilities (pipe stall 24x48 paddock, barn 10x12 made of fire proof material and feed shed with access to the Santa Margarita River trails). A must see at this price!

Reduced To Sell \$548,000



Available Properties



Spanish Hacienda with Guest House - Sprawling Single Level, 4 Bedroom / 3 Bath, 3,526 Sq. Ft., detached guest house, wrap around patios, BBQ, waterfall & pool, tile & wood flooring throughout, vaulted ceilings, cozy living & family rooms each with fireplace, gourmet kitchen, Located in Saratoga Estates, 4 stall barn, room for arena/pasture, direct access to 5 miles of equestrian trails.....**Reduced To Sell!!! \$620,000**



Cul-de-sac Home with Spectacular Views - Vista - 4 Bedroom / 2 Bath, 2,356 Sq. Ft., Single Level Home, Panoramic Views, Sits on 1.15 Acres, Pool/Spa, Formal Entry, Travertine & Hardwood Floors Throughout, Dual Sided Rock Fireplace in Living Room & Family Room, Center Island Kitchen w/ Corian Countertops & Maple Cabinets, Large Master Suite, Private Pool/Spa, Lush Landscaping.....**Offered at \$480,000**



Remodeled Cul-De-Sac Home - Fallbrook - Spacious 2,016 Sq. Ft. Home, 3 Bedroom, 3 Bath, Open Floor Plan, Large .23 Acre Usable Lot, Meticulous Landscaping, Fenced Back Yard, Vaulted Ceilings, Hardwood Floors, Tile Entry & Kitchen, Fireplace in Living Room, Large Family Room, Master Suite with walk in closet, French doors throughout, 2 Car Attached Garage, RV Parking.....**Reduced To Sell!!! \$320,000**

Lots & Land



9.38 Acre Lot - Valley Center - All Flat & Usable Land, Horses Allowed, L Designation, the Perfect Property for that Horse Ranch You've Always Wanted, Secluded but Close to All, Studded with California Coastal Oak Trees, Stream on Property Line, Permitted 2,620 Sq. Ft. High Steel Construction Tractor/Equipment Barn, Water Meter, Seller May Carry 1st Trust Deed.....**Reduced To Sell!!! \$399,500**

For a private viewing of any of these homes or to receive a FREE market analysis on your home call Devon at (760) 522-8559

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My business is built on your referrals! I focus 100% of my energy on my clients and in return I depend on you to refer your family and friends to me. If you are genuinely pleased with my services, the greatest compliment you can give me is a referral. Referrals are what determine my success ... one home at a time, one friend at a time, one client at a time. I thank you for your trust and sincerely hope you will tell your friends, family, neighbors and co-workers about my services. If you know someone who is thinking of selling or buying a home, please have them call me at **760.522.8559**

Thank You For Your Referrals!

Most folks are like a barb-wire fence, they have their good points.

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—Unknown

The REAL ESTATE Corner

9 Home Renovation Ideas to Increase Livability

1. Walk-in pantry instead of kitchen cabinets: Kitchen cabinets are expensive. Half of them are up high on the wall where they're hard to reach. A pantry takes up less space, stores a lot more, is much easier to use, and costs less to build.

2. Comfortable shower instead of big bathtub: Replace them with comfortably sized showers that people actually use every day. A shower takes up less space, uses less hot water, and is far more sanitary than a big tub.

3. Group windows together facing best views instead of scattering them around the house: Got a great view somewhere? Bring it into the house with lots of glass. Take excess windows from bedrooms and bathrooms and use them to connect the inside of the house with the outside.

4. Keep ceiling heights reasonable for the room size: "Volume" ceilings do not automatically make better rooms. They just make taller rooms that are harder to decorate and more expensive to heat and cool. Instead, focus attention on a view, a large fireplace or other element. Use wall trim and paint colors to break up the volume of the room and create the illusion of height.

5. Spend more time planning, and less money building: Carefully design new rooms, keeping the furniture placement in mind.

6. Consider the simple elegance of the box-form house: Proper proportion, scale and details are what turn heads. The simple box-house is a classic American form that's survived 150 years of stylistic changes. And here's a bonus: The box-form is easier and cheaper to build, and because it encloses a larger volume in less perimeter, it's less expensive to heat, cool and maintain.

7. Share part of the master bath: This isn't for everyone, but it tightens up the budget and the floor plan. Make the toilet and a sink in the master bath accessible to the rest of the house, instead of building a separate half-bath-it won't be used much by you during the day, and rarely by guests at night. Why have two baths when one will do?

8. Spend it when you have it, not before: Sure, it'd be great to have those granite countertops now, but your budget's tight and granite is 10 times the cost of laminate tops. So how about putting in nice laminate tops now, and replacing them with granite in five years when you have the cash? You can easily do the same with light fixtures, flooring, window treatment, etc.

9. Compartmentalized bath –two baths in the space of 1 1/2 baths: Each kid doesn't need a personal bathroom, but does need privacy and room to share. A compartmentalized bath puts two sinks in one room and a toilet and tub/shower in another, so 3 kids can use the bath at once and keep a little harmony in the family home.

Richard Taylor is a residential architect based in Dublin, Ohio, and is a contributor to Zillow Blog.