

Dentistry Article Continued.....

up; they have been gradually developing ever since the permanent teeth came in to wear at 3-5 years of age...all those years that the horse was "asymptomatic".

Whereas we could have easily corrected or prevented them early on and delayed the premature loss of teeth and masticatory function for many more years, now it may be too late to do more than mitigate the damage.

And finally.....

As a lark, imagine that we couldn't see our horse's hooves, but we could see its teeth.

Imagine that the hooves are always encased in bags, which have to be removed under sedation for inspection and care. How would I know when to care for my horse's feet? Would I wait until the horse was lame, or stumbling, before taking a look? Would I do it routinely every eight weeks because somebody tells me I should? I bet most of us would take frequent looks at any horse we were conditioning for a long-distance ride. I pastured three old brood mares this summer, and though they never became lame, I cringed increasingly as I daily observed their feet needing trimming more and more. Although I did procrastinate on providing the needed care, I darn sure would NEVER have taken one RIDING without those feet being put in order!

Now, imagine that there are transparent windows along the sides of our horse's cheeks. Now, when I go down to feed, I notice that sharp points on the back upper molars are starting to dig into the cheeks. Every day, that hook on the back lower molar is still there, in fact, it's bigger than it was a while ago. I am reminded that fat cheerful old Bucko has had a missing an upper molar since birth, and that the corresponding lower molar is getting too long again. Well, I am pretty busy, and I will maybe let this stuff slide for a little while longer. But it becomes harder to ignore as time passes; and I DEFINITELY won't put old Buckeroo into training without taking care of it.

Really, finally

As a last and final flight of fantasy, imagine how it would be if humans couldn't talk, and we had to wait until we were losing weight, cranky with pain, and unable to perform our jobs due to the distraction of discomfort.....before we could see a dentist. And then when we prematurely became "gummers"..... in our middle years... our children might decide it was just too expensive to feed us a pelleted ration.....it doesn't sound good!!

Eligibility Declaration Form

Mail to: Lori Walker, PNER Points Secretary, 3014 Victor Pl., Everett, WA 98201.

Must be postmarked on or before Aug. 1st 2005. To determine eligibility, refer to handbook.

Novice: *Senior or Junior* (circle one)

I, _____ have not entered any endurance or limited distance ride prior to the current ride season.

Rookie: *Senior or Junior* (for rides less than 50 miles)

Neither myself, _____ nor my horse, _____ have completed more than 100 miles of endurance and/or limited distance prior to the current ride season.

Horse of the Future (For rides 50+ miles)

I, _____ has never started in any endurance or limited distance ride prior to the current ride season. Owner: _____

Sophomore Horse (For rides 50+ miles)

My horse, _____ is in his/her second year of endurance/limited distance competition. This horse's first year of competition was _____ Owner: _____

Stallion: _____ Owner: _____

Husband/Wife: _____ & _____

Family: List all family members to be counted:

Adults:

Children: