



Did you know?

Horses use more energy in the winter to stay warm.

What can be done to maintain a healthy weight on your horse this winter?

Winter Horse Care

- **Water** – It's important to ensure your horse has access to water that is unfrozen at all times. Rubber water buckets are helpful during the winter months as they have better insulation and do not shatter if filled with ice. Also, use warm water to prevent water sources from freezing. Adding electrolytes to your horse's diet is a great way to encourage water intake.
- **Shelter** – Horses need a place to get out of the wind and rain this winter. Providing a dry clean shelter area will help reduce some common winter issues such as rain rot, mud fever and thrush.
- **Deworming program** – Parasites live in the gut and steal nutrients from your horse resulting in weight loss, poor hair coat and general ill-thrift. And migrating larvae can cause physical damage to the gastrointestinal tract. Talk to your veterinarian to develop a good deworming schedule for your horse and farm/stables.
- **Dental check up** – Making sure your horses dental health is in check is important all year round, but as temperatures drop and more calories are needed to maintain warmth dental care is especially important. Poor condition of the teeth results in poor grinding of the feed not allowing your horse to get the nutrients they need from their food. Call the office today to make an appointment for a dental exam.
- **Extra calories** – Good quality hay is an excellent source of extra calories during the winter months. Consider increasing your horses hay intake to maintain body weight and warmth. If you have a special needs horse or have specific questions about your horse's diet consult your veterinarian before making significant dietary changes.
- **Body Condition Score** - Please see the handout in the flyer to determine your horse's BCS and where they are in relation to the ideal BCS of 5. Monthly checks of your horse's weight with a weight tape will also help identify changes in weight and BCS. They can be picked-up at the office or at your next veterinary check.
- **Wellness Exam** – A wellness exam is a great way to assess your horses current condition and ensure that your current feeding, deworming, and dental program are appropriate. Call our office for more details regarding wellness exams.