

Who and What

- **The Morris Animal Foundation** will fund nearly 200 **animal health studies** this year, including seventeen equine-related projects. Topics will include alternative medicine, colic, foal diseases, genetics, laminitis, pain management and hereditary disorders such as polysaccharide storage myopathy. Information about the studies as well as details on sponsorship are available at www.MorrisAnimalFoundation.org/studies.

- The American Association of Equine Practitioners recommends that all equines should receive “**core**” **vaccinations for protection against rabies, tetanus, West Nile virus, and eastern and western equine encephalomyelitis**. Guidelines for administering these vaccinations, as well as others that may be recommended depending on assessed risk, can be found by going to www.aaep.org/images/files/Adultvaccinationtablerevised108.pdf. The AAEP states that all vaccination programs should be developed in **consultation with a licensed veterinarian**.

- **The World Equestrian Games** will be held at the Kentucky Horse Park from September 25 to October 10, **2010**. Reining, dressage, endurance, and eventing are scheduled for the **first week**, while jumping, vaulting, para-equestrian, and driving will be showcased during the **second week**.

- **Economic woes** are affecting all facets of American life, including racetracks. Both Keeneland Race Course and Turfway Park reported **drops in wagering** of more than 20% during their fall meets. Across the nation, the NTRA found that the amount wagered during the third quarter of 2008 was almost 10% less than during the same period in 2007. News of anabolic steroid abuse and the televised breakdown of Eight Belles following the Kentucky Derby are also thought to have contributed to a drop in support, among even loyal racing fans.

- **The proper way to trim and shoe a hoof** appears to vary considerably between farriers, according to a study in Switzerland. Researchers evaluated 15 parameters such as hoof angle, sole thickness, side-to-side hoof balance, and dorsal wall length when 40 dressage and show jumping horses were trimmed and shod by one of six farriers over the course of a year. The study showed that 14 of the 15 parameters differed significantly depending on which farrier was doing the work.

- **Acupuncture** can be a helpful addition to other therapies in the management of equine **skin disorders**, acute and chronic **pain**, and **musculoskeletal** issues, according to practitioners at the Virginia-Maryland Regional College of Veterinary Medicine. For more information on this treatment modality, go to www.vetmed.vt.edu and type “acupuncture” into the search space.

- A study in New Zealand has shown that **mares gaining weight at the time of conception** produce more colts than fillies. The mechanism for this sex selection is not understood, but is thought to be related to the broodmare’s glucose levels.

- Does it make any difference when you have your horse tested for Cushing's syndrome? Apparently so, as **hormone fluctuations** may produce false positive results for horses tested in the fall months. If your horse seems to have signs of Cushing's disease (heavy hair coat that doesn't shed normally, obesity, increased sweating, weakness, lack of energy), check with your veterinarian about testing, and find out if treatment should be started before definitive testing and diagnosis have been done.
- There's relief in sight for horses that develop **itchy spots along the midline of the belly** due to irritation from insect bites. Scratching can lead to open sores that ooze and bleed. Fly sprays and creams don't seem to prevent the problem, but the **Belly Dickie, a mesh shield that fits close to the horse's belly**, provides a physical barrier that keeps insects out. The washable shield is made in three sizes and can be ordered by calling 480-998-7088. *Kentucky Equine Research has not tested this product and makes no claims, pro or con, about its safety or efficacy. Consult your veterinarian for diagnosis and treatment of skin sores and reactions to insect-related irritation.*
- Research at the University of California-Davis indicates that horses can enter 20-minute periods of **deep sleep while standing up**, although it appears that they still may need to lie down to achieve rapid-eye-movement (REM) sleep. Previous to this study, it was believed that horses could doze while standing, but for truly deep sleep, they needed to be lying on the ground. Results of the study suggest that horses in strange surroundings may be reluctant to lie down and thus can become somewhat sleep-deprived.
- The Pasture Vacuum (www.pasturevacuums.com, 813-431-4220) has the potential to **decrease time and labor involved in common farm chores** like picking manure out of stalls or pastures, emptying water troughs, and transporting shavings. Designed to be towed behind a golf cart or lawn tractor, the device has a large suction nozzle and a storage tank that stores up to eight wheel-barrow loads of liquid or solid material. Two sizes are available.

Wins and Wows

- By winning the \$750,000 Jockey Club Gold Cup by three-quarters of a length over Wanderin Boy at Belmont Park last fall, **Curlin** became the first North American horse to exceed \$10 million in career earnings. Following the race, Curlin increased his bankroll to \$10,246,800, exceeding Cigar's total of \$9,999,815 set twelve years earlier.
- Colts have dominated in the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe run in Longchamps, France, but a filly claimed victory in last fall's race. The first filly to win in 15 years, unbeaten **Zarkava** preserved her record perfect when she came through the 16-horse field and won by two lengths after a powerful stretch run.
- Last November, five-year-old Thoroughbred mare **Pepper's Pride** won her eighteenth race in as many starts, surpassing the North American record of sixteen straight wins held by Citation, Cigar, Mister Frisky, and Hallowed Dreams. In four racing seasons, Pepper's Pride has competed only in New Mexico against fillies and mares bred in that state. Her earnings as of November totaled just short of one million dollars.
- The Laffit Pincay Jr. Award has been given to **Pete Pederson**, a racing steward in California for 50 years. The award recognizes an individual's dedication, integrity, and determination in service to Thoroughbred racing.



**Reprint Courtesy of
Kentucky Equine Research, Inc.**

3910 Delaney Ferry Road
Versailles, KY 40383
Phone: 859-873-1988
Fax: 859-873-3781
Order Department: 800-772-1988
www.ker.com
info@ker.com