

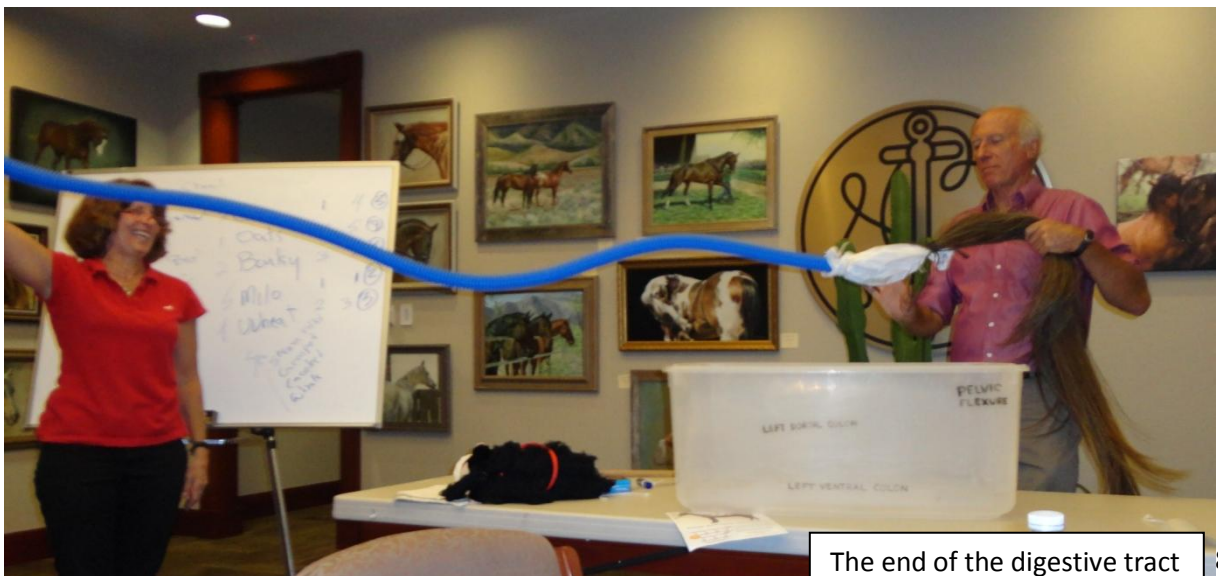
Dressage University with Dr Howard Frederick ~ Equine Nutrition/Supplements
Dr Nancy Leverenz ~ Equine Colic
October 13, 2011



Dr. Howard Frederick shared some insights on equine nutrition and supplements with an attentive audience. He introduced his discussion with "Why Supplement?" Horses need supplements to fill in what is missing in range feed or hay, the basis of the equine diet. Horses may need supplements for different things depending on their age, use, breed, health issues. Areas of supplements that might need to be considered depending on an individual horse are: joints, coat,

hooves, nutritional (vitamins/minerals), calming (performance/relaxation), immune stimulation and parasite. The hay in Arizona is very low in selenium so a nutritional supplement to be considered for this area is one that contains selenium. Phosphorous is also low or missing from hays/forage feeds. Vitamin E is another mineral low in many of our feeds and is essential for immune support and stimulation. Biotin is a supplement that is important for hoof support. He discussed products with Omega 3's and Omega 6's and the importance of a good balance of both; both are important for connective tissue, immune support, coat and skin health. A good energy supplement to hay and forage are grains such as corn, oats, barley, milo. Dr. Frederick discussed the energy value of these versus their palatability and cost.

The Digestive Tract of the Horse



The end of the digestive tract

Dr. Leverenz's presentation was on colic in horses and how the construction of their digestive tract does not really help the cause. Colic or abdominal pain, can be medical or surgical in nature. Medical presentations can be caused by impaction, gas, pregnancy, sand, barometric pressure changes, ulcers. Many medical colics go to surgical cases. Surgical cases might be the cause of twists, stones. Most colics are resolved with minimal treatment. Signs and symptoms of colic are: off feed; not enough manure; elevated respiratory; elevated temperature; unhealthy gum color. Other signs of distress might be pawing, kicking, throwing self on ground, stretched out body.

Dr Leverenz then proceeded to show us how the horse's crummy digestive tract contributes to colic with a wonderful demonstration of the many different parts, their sizes, the configuration in the abdomen, the fact that some of intestines are "free floating", the 180° turns – about 75 feet of system. She stressed how important water consumption is in the horse – about 3 times the amount of feed consumed – at least 10 gallons daily.

TDC thanks Dr Frederick and Dr Leverenz for their enlightening, informative and entertaining discussions!



The beginning of the digestive tract – the esophagus