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We will provide industry-leading, reliable, knowledgeable service, in a friendly, courteous and timely manner, to benefit our clients and the communities we serve.

St Clements Clinic Hours: Mon-Fri 7am – 5pm Closed Saturday
Linwood Hours Mon-Fri 8am-5pm & Sat 8am-12pm
Hwy 89 Clinic: Mon-Sat 7am-1 pm

NOTE: BOTH CLINICS ARE CLOSED SUNDAY and NO DELIVERY SERVICE SATURDAYS AND HOLIDAYS
Orders for Delivery: Please, call BEFORE 9:30 am, for same day local delivery Monday to Friday
24 Hour Emergency Vet Service call any clinic number 1-800-663-2941 519-698-2610 519-323-9002

FEBRUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

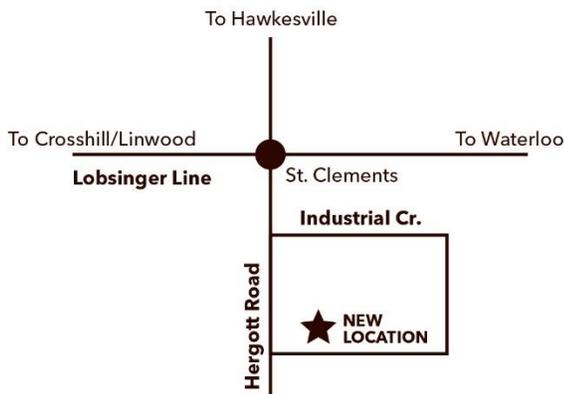
Clinic News

We are now serving you from three locations!

- **St. Clements Open Mon-Fri -7am – 5pm Closed Saturday**
- **Linwood (at 3836 Manser Rd. next to the old clinic) Mon-Fri 8am-5pm
Saturday 8am-12pm**
- **Mount Forest -Open Mon -Saturday 7am to 1pm**

Delivery and out of hours services are unchanged. Our new fax number is 519-699-2081 and we have an additional phone number you can reach us at 519-699-0404 if another line is busy.

Thank you for your patience with us and Bell during this transition to a larger, newer warehouse in St. Clements.



Horse Health

At Linwood Vets we are happy to help keep your horses healthy. We can do routine vaccination and dentistry, fecal analysis, castrations, and more. We also see colics during the day and out of hours. Remember, the sooner you call the better! Call the clinic if you want to schedule in any routine health maintenance for your horses with one of our vets.

What is colic and what causes it?

As you may have noticed recently, we have had some very cold weather! This is prime time for colic to be occurring in horses. Colic is when an animal shows that they are feeling abdominal pain.

There are many different causes for colic, but most of the time colic occurs for one of four reasons:

- The gut is stretched excessively by gas, fluid, or feed
- The gut is displaced
- The gut is twisted on itself
- The gut is inflamed

All of these conditions cause pain receptors in the gut or abdominal fat to be triggered. When these pain receptors are triggered, animals show varying signs of discomfort. Colicing horses will often initially paw at the ground excessively with their front feet and curl their upper lip. Then, if the colic is not resolved they will progress to arching their neck, looking/biting at their belly, and straining to urinate/defecate. When a horse is severely colicing, they will excessively roll, kick at their belly, refuse to eat, be unable to pass manure, and become depressed. If the colic is not resolved and continues to worsen, the horse will eventually die. Cattle also experience colic, although not as commonly, and will kick excessively at their belly and show that they are very uncomfortable.

What can be done to fix colic?

If you suspect your horse is colicing and you think they are only in mild pain, there are a few things you can do to start helping them through it. Offering them luke warm water with some Gatorade or gingerale in it (half a bottle or so) can help entice them to drink. Keeping a colicing horse hydrated is very important. Hand walking the horse every hour helps increase gut motility and helps move gas and feed along. Treating them with pain medication if you have it on hand can also help. For mild colic sometimes, this can be enough.

If the colic doesn't resolve or gets worse, it is important to call your vet quickly. Your vet will come and assess the horse and determine the severity and type of colic. Then depending on what they think they need, they will give them pain meds and/or sedation, and often tube them. Tubing the horse is a way of getting them water if they refuse to drink, as well as laxatives to help move feed/gas through. Some types of colic cannot be resolved with these treatments and would require referral surgery to an equine hospital. There are a couple referral hospitals within reasonable distance from our area. Sometimes surgery is not an option, or colics are so bad, or progress so quickly, that humane euthanasia is the only option. This is an upsetting and unfortunate situation, but it is important to try to minimize the animal's suffering.

How can we prevent colic?

Colic can occur year-round, but often occurs in extremely cold weather. When the weather is very cold, horses don't want to drink as much, and as a result they extract more water from their feed. This causes the feed in their guts to dry out and not move as smoothly. This is called impaction colic. Some key things can be done to help prevent colic in your horses:

- Offer large amounts lukewarm water, especially during cold weather (horses will drink more if the water isn't cold)
- Offer good quality hay as the majority of the horse's diet
- Provide regular turn out if possible, this encourages the guts to move and pass feed/manure
- Get teeth routinely floated if necessary (incomplete chewing of feed can lead to impaction)
- Routinely deworm horses if necessary
- During cold weather, feeding a warm bran mash soaked in warm water with a little molasses – this provides extra fiber and moisture

