

# Harmany Horse Gazette

Harmany Equine's Web letter 3

February 2008

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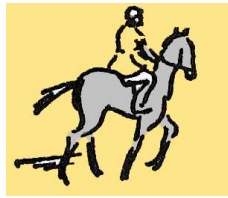
Welcome  
Natural Deworming  
Saddle Fitting Clinic  
Spring shots, vaccines

**Last chance to sign  
up for the saddle  
fitting clinic  
Saddle fit clinic**



Learn how to be comfortable fitting saddles in many different situations, make a template to measure your horse's back and much more!

**More winter reading-**



## Welcome to Harmany Equine's newsletter

Greetings from the summer time!

I have been busy this spring riding my horse, mowing the pastures (we have lots of rain and lots of grass this year), and all the other projects that go along with running a farm. Hopefully we will get back on track with more regular

newsletters.

After almost 14 years in the making, my western saddle fitting book has arrived [Western saddle book!](#) The main complaint I saw in reviews of the English book was that there was no western coverage. Well, now that problem has been solved. This book is the most complete saddle fitting book on the market for the western saddle.

I have been answering "ask the vet" questions on Equisearch which are archived on their web site. One particularly interesting one you may want to read was on dementia and old age [Equisearch](#).

Please send ideas for articles ([Harmany Equine](#)) and products you would like to see us carry in the shop ([Harmany Equine Shop](#)). And if you wish, give us some feedback [email feedback](#). Thanks and have a great summer.

Joyce Harman DVM, MRCVS

## new books

We have 2 new books by Dr. Madalyn Ward. One on reading your horse's personality with Chinese medicine [Horse Harmony](#) and the other about generally keeping your horse healthy with natural medicine [Holistic Horsekeeping](#)

## Quick Links

[Saddle Fitting Clinic](#)

[Saddle Fit Clinic](#)

More about us and more articles

[Harmany Equine home](#)



## Natural Deworming, thoughts and procedures

There are several ways to deworm horses without using harsh chemicals. Each of them takes a bit more work and attention to detail than using a conventional paste, however the rewards exceed the effort, if you enjoy that kind of time with your horses. Holistic deworming does not usually work when the horse is under stress (competing frequently, working very hard or living in a crowded environment).

Boarding stables may have a high parasite load on the land and may have horses coming in contaminating the pasture. The best parasite control is picking out the manure regularly, so a clean place may have a low load (and you may not need to deworm if you pick up your pastures). Parasite eggs are in manure. When the weather becomes warm and moist in the spring, the larva hatch and the horse's parasite load increases.

In an attempt to make pastures look better people often drag the fields in the spring to break up the winter accumulation. This neatly spreads parasite eggs all over the pasture and horses cannot eat around their manure piles like they will when the piles are discrete. We all are familiar with how horses avoid manure piles in the fields but the horses are smarter than we are. They do not eat near the piles because the parasite larva are concentrated there.

So, do not drag the fields, wait for the dung beetles and insects to do the work. Heavy use of the ivermectin and moxidectin families of dewormers tends to prevent the dung beetles from breaking up the manure, so piles will accumulate. The same may hold true for daily dewormers, though the evidence is less clear.

Your horse's immune system must be in good working order, because ultimately it is his immune system that keeps the worms in check. Is your horse really healthy? Read this article on my web site [Healthy horse?](#) to find out. If not, think about the digestive system. Do you need probiotics to restore good gut function ([ProBi](#), [Digest Plus](#))? Is your horse your horse prone to ulcers (see future newsletter) ([Digest Support](#), [Aloe vera](#))?

Perhaps the most important thing to do when starting a holistic deworming plan is that you must check your horses regularly for worm eggs by doing a fecal or a blood test. This will let you know whether the program is working or not.

The best time to check fecals is just after the full moon, to get the highest counts. Take them to your vet's office or lab. Check every 3- 4 months for about 2 years to be certain the program works, then 2 times a year after that.

There are a number of ways to deworm naturally. Do not be fooled into thinking you can deworm naturally with a single dose of a natural paste. The compounds are not that strong. Diatomaceous earth can be bought at many places, including your garden supply store (never from a pool supply store). This can be fed free choice, or given at about 4 oz per day for several weeks around the full moon. May need to be repeated regularly in the spring and fall or when the weather is warm and moist. Hot and dry or very cold weather means the larvae are not active in the manure. MOP is a diatomaceous earth product with some herbs added ([link](#))

A homeopathic product that works nicely is called Wrm Clear ([Wrm Clear](#)) that is a combination of remedies known to strengthen the body's energy to help dispel worms. Use it twice a day for 3 weeks at a time.

If you have a parasite problem that cannot be cleared up using this type of product your horse's immune system may need some help, or call the clinic for a phone consult to tailor a program for your horse. Chinese herbs are a very strong way to help deworm while making your horse healthier, but they are only available on prescription.



## **The Pain Free Back and Saddle Fitting Clinic**

With Joyce C. Harman, DVM MRCVS  
and Wendy Murdoch, MS

**March 20-23, 2008**

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- Correct fit and position of saddle on the horse
- Stabilizing rider balance and seat
- Sensible use of pads and shims
- Accommodating multiple horses
- Fitting challenging conformation types
- Finding a saddle
- Care of the horse's back

**Thinking about spring shots, vaccines?**

The spring is the time we tend to think about vaccinations. Well, it is time to rethink the process, from just marking it on the calendar to giving serious consideration to what is best for your horse. A lengthy article is on my web site at [Vaccines](#).

Vaccines are strong drugs and not every horse needs all of them. It is important to think about what your horse really needs, what diseases are important in your particular area. What diseases does your local vet actually treat?

Many horses have reactions to vaccines that range from mild swellings to major problems including laminitis or death. It is possible to have your vet perform a blood test to check a "titer" to see how well your horse may be protected from various diseases. Many horses have decent protection against the diseases we vaccinate for, and may only need a booster every 5-10 years or more, not every year.

Research and think about your vaccination program, your horse with thank you for it with better health.

**Upcoming Events**

The Pain Free Back and Saddle Fit Clinic

Toad Hollow Farm

4012 Cannon Brook Way Charlottesville, VA 22901

[Saddle Fit Clinic](#)

Chinese medicine, overview nutrition

August 1-3, 2008

Texas Hill Country

Contact sylvia sitters <[scsitters@earthlink.net](mailto:scsitters@earthlink.net)>

**Thanks**

Thanks for reading this newsletter. I would love to hear your feedback, good and bad, suggestions, and requests. Joyce Harman

**Contact Info**

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[Harmany Equine Web Site](#)

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