



Horsin' Around The Wabash Valley

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2008

Upcoming Meeting:

- November 11 @ 7:30 pm (Sycamore Chevy)
Election of officers



Club website @
www.wvha.info

- Show bills
- Meeting dates
- Forms
- Xmas Banquet info & rsvp
- Local Horses & Items 4 Sale
- Links of interest
- And more



Horse Health Woes - When to Call the Vet

There's nothing more magical about winter when the snow starts falling. It's cold, of course, but it also brings about cuddling and family time. One thing that winter can be bad on though is your animals - especially horses. Did you know that horses can have a lot more health problems in the winter than any other season? Why is this? As the temperature drops, a horse tends to get sick faster- especially if they have no protection.

Some of the major health problems a horse can have are listed below with descriptions and ways to try to prevent them.

- **Colic**- Simply put it's a stomach ache. It doesn't always happen in the winter time, but the horses are more susceptible to it then. It's not so much the stomach ache - it's the way the horse reacts to the stomach ache. They won't eat, they tend to lay down and keep getting up trying to soothe the pain. If the pain is really bad some will roll and thrash violently. They will kick at their bellies and grind their teeth. If your horse has any of these signs, immediately call the vet as they may need to get serious medical help. Some major factors are linked to colic in a horse. They are listed below....
- **Dehydration** - As winter sets in and it gets colder, horses don't care to drink cold water - especially if it's frozen. They can't get enough nutrients from the snow, so when they actually do drink their body temperature starts to drop. The body then has to work double to produce heat. When a horse becomes dehydrated the intestines are the first thing affected. This in turn can cause the extreme pain. To prevent your horse from getting dehydrated in the winter, set a pan of lukewarm water in the barn or fill their water troughs several times a day with warm water.
- **Overfeeding**- When it's cold outside everyone loves warm food. This is the problem with overfeeding in the winter time - people think since it's cold out they should feed the horses more. This can lead to a number of problems. When the food is eaten too fast it can cause problems such as colic, laminitis or maybe both. If you need to feed more, feed more good-quality hay. You may also divide the normal amount of grain into three feedings throughout the day to allow the digestion to provide more heat.
- **Bad Hay**- Horses can't tolerate eating weeds and stalks mixed in hay. They can't digest it as well as some animals (like cows). Make sure the hay is not moldy - this can cause Botulism which can kill a horse.
- Another health issue a horse can get is **rain rot**. Rain rot occurs when the ground is soggy and wet (especially in Fall, Winter and Spring). The bacteria gets between the horse's skin and dirt which protects it. It resembles tiny bumps to large scabbing along the horse's topline usually. If not treated immediately it can spread rapidly. You can try a betadine scrub bath, but for the really bad cases you should call the vet. Antibiotics may be prescribed for your horse.
- **Pneumonia**- We've all heard of pneumonia - even horses can get it. It's fluid in the lungs from a viral or bacterial infection. If caught immediately antibiotics can take care of it. If you let it go too long though you may have a dead horse. Try to keep your horse in a nice, warm stall in the barn. A horse blanket may help to raise a horse's body temperature so they can fight off the infection. Give your horse extra TLC during this time. Pneumonia is a life-threatening illness. If it's not treated immediately the result may be death.

Christmas Banquet

Date: *Saturday, Dec. 20, 2008*

Time: *6:30 pm - Midnight*
(see schedule below)

Where: *Idle Creek Banquet Center*

What: *Buffet dinner, cash bar, Santa Claus
(with gifts for kids), door prizes, auction
(bring a wrapped gift - gag or regular
gift), DJ & Karaoke by the Music Man*

RSVP: *Return form with payment today to reserve your spot
(form is also available online @ www.wvha.info)*

Tickets: *Adults \$ 20 per person; Kids \$ 10 per person*



I know it's hard to believe but it's time to get ready for Christmas, and with that comes the WVHA Annual Christmas Party! Last year the change of location to Idle Creek was very well received so we have decided to return to Idle Creek for our 2008 Christmas banquet. This year's party schedule is as follows:

6:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Social
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	Dinner
8:00 pm - 9:00 pm	Auction with Johnny Swalls
9:00 pm - midnight	Music Man DJ/Karaoke

As always we ask that you bring a wrapped gift for the auction – you decide what to bring (gag or real gift). Everyone is welcome to come to the Christmas Party. If you haven't attended any events in awhile you are missing a good time. Now is a perfect time to get involved in the club again!!

**Wabash Valley
Horseman's Association**

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**We're on the web!
www.wvha.info**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Meeting: Nov 11 @
7:30 pm @ Sycamore
Chevy (upstairs)**
- **Christmas Party
Saturday, Dec 20
6:30 pm—midnight**



Retta F. Mason, 60, of West Terre Haute passed away unexpectedly Sunday afternoon, Oct 12, 2008, at Union Hospital's emergency room after collapsing at home. She was a customer service representative with Farm Bureau Insurance Company, where she had worked for 21 years. She had also been a Longaberger Basket sales consultant for more than 20 years. She was born Oct 6, 1948, in Terre Haute, to Richard L. Flinn and Alberta Joy Flinn. Survivors include her husband of 43 years, Larry Mason, whom she married Oct 16, 1965, at Bethany United Church of Christ in West Terre Haute; two sons, Larry Dale Mason and his wife Stephanie, and Ronnie Mason and his fiancée Jennette Shaker; her mother, Alberta Flinn; her mother-in-law, Dorothy Charlotte Mason; and two grandchildren, Mary-Paige Mason, and Draik Mason. She was preceded in death by her father, and her father-in-law, Fred Mason. Burial was in Bethesda Memorial Park.

One friend of Retta's stated:

"Retta was awesome in every facet of her life as I knew her - devoted, loyal and fun-loving with her family, work and hobbies. After hearing of Retta's passing, it occurred to me that October was a magical month for Retta: She was born, married her love and went on to be with the Lord all at this time of year. Retta Flinn Mason was a great woman and she will be missed."