

Did You Know

Did you know that in the State of Ohio only a licensed veterinarian or a registered veterinary technician under the direct supervision (on premises) of a veterinarian may perform sedation and/or a dental procedure (Equilibration) on a horse.

The State of Ohio does not recognize the Certified Equine Dental Technician degree. The registered veterinary technician is a two year college degree and then must pass a national examination.

Did you know that you should ask if the dentist carries malpractice insurance? Injuries to the horse will not be covered by the policy the owner carries, unless the horse is being cared for by a professional licensed by the State of Ohio. All veterinarians carry malpractice insurance, which covers a registered veterinary technician under their direct supervision. Be sure to ask if your horse's dentist is licensed in the State of Ohio, carries malpractice insurance, and is under the direct supervision of a veterinarian or is a veterinarian.

Did you know that the veterinarian and the registered veterinary technician carry liability insurance in case the owner or agent of the owner becomes injured? Always ask if the dentist carries liability insurance in case of an accident.

Did you know it is legal for the owner of the horse to sedate only his own horses when a veterinarian has dispensed medication specifically for the individual horse? It is illegal for anyone other than the owner to administer sedation. It is illegal for anyone other than a veterinarian to determine a drug administration dose for an individual animal. A veterinarian carries the reversal agent and medication to treat an allergic reaction.

This recently came to our attention as we have a client that allowed a certified equine dental technician to sedate and float the horse's teeth. There were complications and the horse required further veterinary care. The horse's major medical insurance will not pay the veterinary bills and the dentist does not have malpractice insurance. If the horse were to die, the mortality insurance value would not be paid. The client is lucky that neither she nor the person holding the horse were injured. The client was not aware of the consequences when she allowed a non-licensed individual to sedate and perform a dental procedure on her horse. Please be an informed horse owner!

Did you know that we have made great advances in equine dentistry? A light, speculum, and sedation must be utilized to properly examine and float the teeth. We have stepped out of the dark ages of wrestling each horse and rasping by feel.

Jeni Gaffney, DVM (The Visiting Vet)

