

Grand Adventures Ranch

Holistic Animal Therapies Education Center

Worried about Pigeon Fever?

**FREE Holistic Therapy as part of
Octazone Investigational Study
beginning June 2006**

Beginning in June of 2006, Grand Adventures Ranch and Mountain View Animal Clinic are co-sponsoring an investigational study of the efficacy of Octazone on horses diagnosed with Pigeon Fever. Treatment will consist of seven consecutive days of rectal Octazone. Horses will also be evaluated for diet and immune system strength. There is no charge for this treatment. 14 days after treatment conclusion horses will be tested for presence of active pathogen.

Pigeon Fever is caused by the bacterium *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. It is also called Dryland Distemper or false Strangles. It usually is associated with very deep abscesses and multiple sores along the chest and midline. Abscesses usually form deep in muscles, such as the pectorals. This causes swelling that looks like a puffed-out pigeon breast, thus giving the name pigeon fever to the disease. However, abscesses can occur throughout the body - especially the udder. Prior to the formation of abscesses, horses may clinical signs which include skin peeling from the chest, lameness, fever, lethargy, and weight loss. Dryland distemper can occur in any age, sex, or breed of horse. Many times the abscesses may affect the liver and can cause a decrease in liver function. Also, these abdominal abscesses can rupture and cause a severe peritonitis that is difficult to cure.

The causative bacteria live in the soil and can enter the horse's body through wounds or broken skin, and through mucous membranes. It can be transmitted by various flies, including house flies and probably horn flies.

It is important to not use antibiotics until all abscesses are drained as antibiotics will delay maturation of the abscesses. Once the abscesses are drained, then penicillin has usually been used to aid in controlling the infection. These internal abscesses require long term antibiotic therapy with high doses of penicillin. This therapy causes a problem also as penicillin given in the muscle makes horses sore after just a few days. Long term treatment is consequently very painful for the horse and most resent being treated after about 1 week. ***This study is specifically aimed at eliminating the need for antibiotic treatment.***



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Suggested Prevention, Therapy and Control

Kay Aubrey-Chimene, Bio-Nutritional Therapist and Dr. Randy McMillan, DVM have developed a suggested protocol for treating and handling horses with Pigeon Therapy. Detoxification and immune support are at the heart of preventing re-occurrence. Rigorous safe handling procedures help protect care givers and other horses in contact with affected animals. Investigation participants are not required to follow these protocols but proper nutrition and immune system support has been show to reduce incidence of reoccurrence and spread of the disease.

1. Detoxification Program
 - a. Concentrated chlorophyll - Herbal Green - 3 ounces per day for 10 days.
 - b. Herbal Tonic - 1 ounce per day for 30 days.
 - c. Homeopathic Silicea

2. Immune system strengthening and support
 - a. No vaccinations or chemical de-worming during any health challenges such as Pigeon Fever.
 - b. Ramping course of SOD - Super Oxide Dismutase.
 - i. Week 1 - 1 ounce per day
 - ii. Week 2 - 2 ounces per day
 - iii. Week 3 - 3 ounces per day
 - iv. Week 4 - 2 ounces per day
 - v. Week 5 - 1 ounce per day
 - c. Nutrition program
 - i. Grass Hay
 - ii. Whole, chemical free grains to meet caloric needs
 - iii. Free-choice minerals and loose salt
 - iv. Dynamite vitamin and mineral supplement (or other amino-acid chelated mineral and vitamin product)



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Care and Handling

3. Care and handling of abscesses
 - a. Pigeon Fever can be infectious to humans and is easily transferred into open sores and wounds. Disposable gloves should be worn when cleaning abscesses and cleaning up after treatment.
 - b. Use hot packs followed with warm Miracle clay poultices on the chest (or other affected areas) to draw out abscesses. Once coming to the surface abscesses may need to be lanced.
 - c. Flush abscesses daily with 3% hydrogen peroxide and Betadine to clean and disinfect.
 - d. During investigation, abscesses will be clean and flushed each day by ranch personnel. After cleaning, abscesses will be flushed with Octazone and Trace Minerals Concentrate to dry the wound.

4. Additional Care Recommendations:
 - a. As Pigeon Fever is highly infectious infected horses should be kept separated until all abscess activity has passed and swabbing fails to culture active pathogen.
 - b. Other horses should be protected from fly activity,
 - c. Buckets or other containers should be used to collect pus from draining abscesses and this infectious material should be disposed of properly.
 - d. Consistent and careful disposal of infected bedding, hay, straw or other material used in the stall is of vital importance.
 - e. Thoroughly clean and disinfect stalls, paddocks, all utensils and tack. Do NOT share equipment from affected horses with other horses.
 - f. Pest control for insects is also very important as Pigeon Fever is thought to be transmitted by biting insects. Non-toxic fly sprays (vinegar based) and extensive traps should be used. Fly parasites, nematodes and diatomaceous earth can also help reduce insect populations.
 - g. This infection can be transmitted to people through open sores. Take extreme care when treating open abscesses. Always wear disposable gloves with coming in contact with open abscesses and discharge.



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Protocol

5. Investigation Tracking - Horses will be evaluated for multiple factors throughout the investigation:
 - a. Prior to treatment
 - i. Number, location and size of abscesses
 - (1) open
 - (2) emerging
 - ii. Weight and general condition
 - iii. Diet
 - b. During 7 days of Octazone treatment (1 liter per minute for 5 - 7 minutes)
 - i. Pulse, temperature and respiration
 - ii. Abscess activity
 - c. At the end of 7 days of Octazone treatment
 - i. Number, location and size of remaining abscesses, new emerging abscesses
 - d. 14 days following the final Octazone treatment
 - i. Open abscesses will be swabbed to test for active pathenogen.
 - ii. Scabbed wounds will be opened and swabbed for active pathenogen.
 - iii. Abscesses that have not erupted will be counted and graded for reduction in size.



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