

# EquiNews

Genesee Valley Equine Clinic, LLC  
925 Chili-Scottsville Road, Scottsville, NY 14546

Phone: (585) 889-1170

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Visit us online at: [www.gvequine.com](http://www.gvequine.com)

## 2011 Winter Horse Health Seminar Features Neurologic and Metabolic Disorders

Saturday, February 5, 2011, 8:00 am to noon

Take a break from the winter's chill to explore new ideas and visit with your equine friends at the GVEC annual Winter Horse Health Seminar on Saturday, February 5, at the Wheatland-Chili High School, 940 North Road in Scottsville, from 8:00 am until noon. We are pleased to be able to host this event free of charge thanks to the continued support of our loyal and generous sponsors.

The trade show opens at 8:00 am in the gymnasium with a variety of exhibits and demonstrations that will interest horse enthusiasts of every discipline. We will have hands-on displays for both kids and adults, so be sure to bring the whole family.

At 8:45 am we'll kick off our lecture program, held in the auditorium. We'll present the winner of our Educator of the Year award and give out lots of door prizes, too! During the mid-morning break, we'll serve free refreshments.

This year we have invited **Amy Johnson, DVM, DACVIM**, from the University of Pennsylvania to speak

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Dr. Amy Johnson

about neurological problems in the horse. Dr. Johnson's talk, "**Worrisome Wobbling: What to Do for the Neurologic Horse**" will shed some light on what can go wrong with a horse's "wiring."

So often it is assumed that a wobbly or slightly lame horse has equine protozoal myeloencephalitis (EPM), but Dr. Johnson will offer some other reasons why a horse's nervous system may malfunction.

Don't miss this opportunity to learn more about the brain, spinal cord, and nerves that control every movement in your horse.

Dr. Johnson is a 2003 graduate of Cornell University and a classmate of Dr. Erica Hutten's. She did her internship in a private practice in New Jersey. Our veterinarians frequently worked with Dr. Johnson when we sent patients to her during her residency in Large Animal Internal

Medicine at Cornell. While now on staff as a lecturer at the University of Pennsylvania, she is also doing a second residency in neurology. She will take her board examination for that specialty in June 2011. Dr. Johnson is a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine.

Our veterinarians agree that it is much easier to make a thin horse heavier than it is to make a fat horse thinner. We are fortunate to present **Amy Polkes, DVM, DACVIM**, who will share information about Equine Metabolic Syndrome and its secondary effects on horses.

Dr. Polkes' lecture, "**Fat Is Not Funny: Understanding Equine Metabolic Syndrome**" will cover

diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of this fairly recently recognized syndrome plaguing horses today.



Dr. Amy Polkes

Dr. Polkes is a native of Long Island and has recently moved to the Hudson Valley. She graduated from Purdue University School of Veterinary Medicine in 1993 and did an internship in equine medicine and

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surgery at Fox Run Equine Center in Pennsylvania. She then spent three years in general equine practice in Virginia and Pennsylvania. Dr. Polkes later returned to academics at the University of Florida, where she completed her residency in Large Animal Internal Medicine. Dr. Polkes is also a diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine. She has worked as an internist in practices along the East Coast since 2000 and is familiar with the lush pastures that abound in our area.

Finally, we will round out the morning's presentations by featuring one of GVEC's own veterinarians as she presents a case study of a horse we have treated.

We look forward to seeing you on February 5th! Directions to the high school are below. 🐾

## Advertise Your Business or Service

*Businesses, stable owners, breeders, and trainers have two ways to advertise at our Winter Seminar:*

**Become a Sponsor:** Your business will reach a targeted audience of more than 400 by advertising with a business card ad in our seminar's program. Just send us two business cards and a check for \$20.00 made out to "GVEC" by January 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Distribute Your Literature:**

In the gymnasium, a table will be set up for you to distribute promotional literature and flyers about your business or announce an upcoming event or horse show. There is no charge for this display. We ask that each hand-out be no larger than one sheet of 8-1/2 x 11" paper. Please plan on picking up any of your remaining materials at the end of the seminar.

## Dr. Dwyer Named AAEP Vice President

*She's slated to become president in 2013.*

The American Association of Equine Practitioners has selected Dr. Ann Dwyer to serve as vice president in 2011. With this appointment, she will be in line to assume the AAEP presidency in 2013 and will be the second woman in the association's history to serve as president.

"Dr. Dwyer has a long history of service to the AAEP as a member of various committees, task forces and the board of directors," AAEP Executive Director David Foley said. "She has shown great leadership in all of those capacities, and will be a great addition to the executive committee and a fantastic president."

Dr. Dwyer was a member of the AAEP board of directors from 2006 to 2008 and has served on the Professional Conduct and Ethics and Nominating committees. For the past 10 years, GVEC has participated in the AAEP Avenues Internship/Externship program, training future equine practitioners through active mentorship.

A leader in the field of equine ophthalmology, Dr. Dwyer has authored four book chapters and published more than 20 papers on the subject. For the past 20 years she has served as a clinical associate at the Flaum Eye Institute in Rochester. And in October 2009 she chaired the AAEP's Focus on Ophthalmology meeting.

Headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky, AAEP was founded in 1954 as a non-profit organization dedicated to the health and welfare of the horse. The organization currently reaches more than 5 million horse owners through its 10,000 members worldwide and is actively involved in ethics issues, practice management, research, and continuing education in the equine veterinary profession and horse industry. For more information about AAEP, go to [www.aaep.org](http://www.aaep.org).

When you see Dr. Dwyer, please wish her a heartfelt congratulations on this well-deserved honor. 🐾



Dr. Ann Dwyer. Photo by Christin Boggs.

### DIRECTIONS TO THE

## GVEC Winter Horse Health Seminar

*Wheatland-Chili High School  
940 North Road, Scottsville, NY*

*Saturday, February 5, 2011, 8:00 am to noon*


**From the North:** Take Route 383 (Scottsville Rd.) south. At the stoplight past the Dollar General Plaza, turn right (west) onto North Road. WCHS is one mile down on the left.

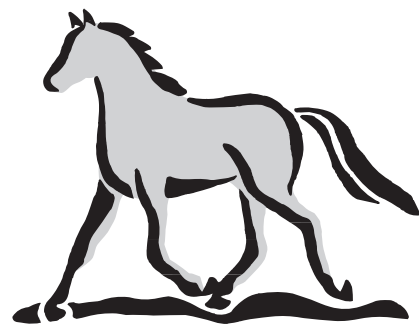
**From I-390 and Thruway Exit 46:** Take Route 253 west to the Scottsville Rd. stoplight. (Watch the route signs carefully as Route 253 travels along many different roads.) At that intersection, continue straight (west) on North Road. WCHS is one mile down on the left.

**To receive specific directions from other areas,** please consult our web site ([www.gvequine.com](http://www.gvequine.com)), or call the office at (585) 889-1170.

The high school is approximately a 15-minute drive from either Thruway Exit 47 from the west or Exit 46 from the east.

## Short Courses for 2011

The GVEC staff is offering a number of courses at the clinic (925 Chili-Scottsville Road) throughout the coming year. These interactive classes are great opportunities for you to gain in-depth knowledge on a specific topic and meet other horse people from the area. The fee for each course is \$8.00. Light refreshments will be served. Class size is limited, so be sure to call us early at (585) 889-1170 to reserve a space for you and your family. 



### The Foaling Mare and Newborn Foal

Wednesday, January 19, 2011  
7-9 pm  
Erica Hutten, DVM

This course will be a timely refresher for those people who have foaled out mares before, and a very important preparation for horseowners expecting their first foal this year. We will cover the care and monitoring of the late-term pregnant mare, the foaling process, and the neonatal period. A video of a real foaling and lots of pictures will help explain what to do, what is normal, and when to call for help.



### CSI: Case Study Investigation

Thursday, February 24, 2011  
7-9 pm  
Amy Leibeck, DVM



Skip "CSI" and "Grey's Anatomy" on this particular Thursday and be a real participant in the sleuthing/diagnosis game! Join Dr. Amy Leibeck for an evening of case presentations and learn about some common health issues that we encounter with our equine patients. The audience is encouraged to participate as each history is taken and the physical examination findings are revealed. Work along with Dr. Leibeck to decide on appropriate diagnostic tests and help her interpret the findings. This is a great way to learn and have the information "stick."

*Note: This course is suited to horse rookies as well as veterans, but it is probably best for those over 14 years of age.*

### That Wasn't There Yesterday...Was It?

Thursday, March 10, 2011  
7-9 pm  
Joan Ayers, DVM

Lumps and bumps can appear unexpectedly and may be alarming to find. Possibilities range from hives or swollen lymph nodes to a bowed tendon or tumor. We will discuss some common causes of bumps you might find on your horse, especially those involving the skin, head, and limbs. Discussion will include causes, locations, treatments, what to look for, and when to call the veterinarian.

### Is My Horse Really Tying Up?

Tuesday, March 22, 2011  
7-9 pm  
Kendall Stratton, DVM

Often we think that a horse is showing signs of muscular distress and is tying up, however, many other disorders exist that may be causing these signs to occur. Spend time this evening discussing the various kinds of muscle problems that horses can have. During this class we will cover the basics of tying up, as well as some of the breed-specific muscular disorders and how we diagnose and treat them.



Looking for the "Just for Kids" puzzle?

You'll find it at the seminar! Just fill it out while you're there and hand it in at the registration desk. Later in the morning, we'll pick a winner at random from all the correct entries and give out a terrific prize!



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## Winter Horse Health Seminar Issue

### Is Equine Insurance Right for You?

*Many people have found that insuring their horses gives them peace of mind. You may, too.*

**M**any of our clients have recently begun inquiring about insuring their horses. While the cost of equine insurance may be expensive, it might enable you to more quickly recover financially and emotionally from a catastrophic event occurring to your horse. Two types of equine insurance are generally considered by most of the horse-owning public: mortality and major medical/surgery policies.

A **mortality policy** offers protection in the case of a horse's death, which often comes unexpectedly. A proven breeding stallion might be insured for hundreds of thousands of dollars,

but policies are also written for horses valued under \$5,000.

Whether you own a string of race or show horses, or a single trail-riding companion, replacing any horse is expensive. Some horses represent a significant investment, and mortality insurance helps owners recoup some of their losses upon the animal's death. And though a hobby horse may not be considered an "investment" per se, the owner may want to insure it so that a replacement can be purchased from the proceeds.

Many insurers offer a colic rider alongside these policies to help defer the cost of abdominal surgery, which currently runs between \$5,000 and \$12,000.

**Major medical/surgery policies** are designed to be used in the same way as most human health insurance policies. Some offer high premiums and lots of coverage, while others

offer lower premiums and less-comprehensive coverage. This insurance will help pay for diagnostics and treatment for many ailments, injuries, and surgeries a horse may need.

Make sure you **read the fine print** and any exclusions when looking at these policies as some companies are unwilling to cover much of the new and expensive technology available in the horse health field.

If an equine insurance purchase is in your plans, be sure to **compare offers from a few companies** before making a decision. You might ask your homeowner's or car insurance agents about their recommendations for equine insurance.

Once a policy is purchased, **keep the company's phone numbers close at hand, at the barn, and with you whenever you trailer your horse** as your insurer will need to be quickly notified if any mishap occurs. 