

Horse Trails and Tales

Eleanor Kellon, VMD

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The Afterglow – Thoughts on the No Laminitis Conference

The Equine Cushing's and Insulin Resistance No Laminitis conference was truly fabulous. It was the culmination of a process set in motion over 10 years ago by an owner, Robin Siskel, who wanted to find more information and answers for her mare with Cushing's Disease, Tina (Night Flight). The group has grown to over 10,000 members.

The <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/EquineCushings/> group has never been a “chat” group. The goal is, and always has been, to collect clinical information, laboratory data on actual cases and to follow the pertinent scientific literature. The focus has always been to help the horses. We're not averse to trying different approaches, but never on the basis of marketing claims alone.

The success of the group is due to the dedication of the individual owners and to the volunteer efforts of a core team who work tirelessly 24/7/365 to greet and orient newcomers, keep

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Equine Cushings Group Goals

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- Collect clinical information
- Collect laboratory data on actual cases
- Follow the pertinent scientific literature

conversations on topic, maintain files and web sites, direct members through the mountain of information in our files and generally keep the peace.

While it's a labor of love, keeping things flowing smoothly on a list this large is also very, very hard work. The support staff are all owners who have been through the challenge of helping horses with these issues themselves. Both the staff and many owners stay on the list to help "pay it forward" to the next person needing help and information.

Having a common dedication really unites people. You can grow quite close interacting intensely over the

years. That bond sprang to life over the conference weekend. We smiled until our faces were cracking, and hugged enough to almost break ribs.

The conference itself went amazingly well, especially considering there were only a few short months to pull it together. The committee did a wonderful job and we had a good turnout. Attendees had a multitude of good questions and comments. There was a lot of interaction and enthusiasm.

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The Horse's Mouth

*A new E-zine from
Eleanor Kellon, VMD*

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