Complications of procedures and pharmacological interventions can occur in equine practice - sometimes with spectacular results. When things go wrong, understanding the mechanisms and having prior knowledge of the likely consequences can help you mitigate the problem and turn a potential disaster into a salvageable situation. This course is aimed at helping clinicians be forewarned, and hence forearmed, against incidents that can occur even when the clinician is practising their best medicine. In this course, we’ll look at two key questions: What sort of things can go wrong? What are the consequences?

Benefits
Participants will be better prepared for when things don’t go as they should and have a logical contingency plan to help mitigate problem situations. The outcome will be better for the patient, the owner, the clinician and the practice’s reputation.

Aims
• To increase your awareness and understanding of pharmacological and procedural complications that can occur in equine practice.
• To increase your knowledge and confidence by knowing what sort of complications can occur and how to deal with them.
• To enable you to make better judgements in practice and thereby improve outcomes in challenging cases.

CPD points
This module qualifies as continuing professional development (CPD). One hour = 1 point under the VCNZ CPD framework. Participants should gain 3-6 points.

1 October – 11 November 2012

Anna Kendall DVM Dip ECEIM
Anna was born, raised and educated in Sweden. After working at an ambulatory practice in Sweden in her first year, she did an internship in large animal medicine and surgery at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph, Canada. This was followed by a residency in equine internal medicine at the Swedish Veterinary College. After her residency, she stayed on as a clinician and lecturer in equine medicine until immigrating to New Zealand in 2011. She is currently working as a lecturer and clinician at Massey University Equine Clinic.

Topic 1: Pharmacological complications
Should a horse that starts hyperventilating after sedation with alpha-agonists be given a reversal agent? What drugs can cause immune medicated haemolytic anaemia? This part of the course addresses complications associated with commonly used pharmacological agents. We will cover potential risk factors as well as the pathophysiological mechanisms and outcomes.

Topic 2: Complications associated with common procedures
Your IV catheter breaks and disappears into the vein. What is the most likely outcome? Your needle perforates the intestine while performing an abdominocentesis. Should you treat the horse with broad spectrum antibiotics? In this topic we will review complications of common procedures and their treatment options using the outcomes of published case studies.

Topic 3: Diagnostic pitfalls and queries
The head shaker you are investigating has gastric ulcers. Have you found the root of the problem? How well do your CBC results help you rule out infectious processes? This topic will deal with some diagnostic pitfalls as well as provide you with common, but perhaps controversial, conclusions drawn from various findings. The material will be case-based with each scenario followed by a short review of current literature on the topic.

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