

Police seek man who pulled gun on couple

By Dan Mancuso
IVN Staff

According to the Oregon State Police, in an incident near Kirkham Road and Dick George Road in Rural Cave Junction, Jeremy L. Whyte, 29, allegedly pulled a firearm on Mary Anna D. Burns, 39, and her male companion Vestin L. Burns, 20, while

they were trying to retrieve a vehicle.

A press release states Whyte pulled a gun on both subjects and put the weapon's laser sight on both of their foreheads. Whyte then fired several rounds into the ground near Maryanna and Vestin. Whyte fled with several firearms prior to OSP arrival. Maryanna was taken to a safe location. Vestin had an outstanding warrant for his arrest. He was transported to the jail and lodged. Prior to that incident, troopers had been looking for Whyte

for a case involving Maryanna from a March 19. In that case, state troopers were called to the 800 block of Aquaries Way in Cave Junction after Ashley A. Burns, 21, called and reported that Whyte was attempting to break into the residence of her and her mother, Maryanna Burns. Whyte fled prior to OSP's arrival. Troopers observed extensive damage to the trailer as well as two other vehicles on scene.

The Farrier's Corner: by Ray and Michelle Smith

Mud and Your Horses' Feet

With the arrival of spring in the western Oregon valleys, one can anticipate the arrival of spring rains. As temperatures warm, so does the soil - which quickly turns to mud with the addition of rain and cultivation by horses' hooves. With the warming of the soil, the bacteria living in it become increasingly active. This brings us to some conditions your horses may develop that can be directly related to mud.

Thrush

Thrush is a common affliction of the equine foot. The bacteria that cause thrush are anaerobic, meaning that they thrive in the absence of oxygen. Because these bacteria are present in the soil and manure, it is easy to understand how simply they establish on your horses' feet. The bacteria are present and in contact with the hoof. They become lodged in oxygen deprived areas under cakes of muck and the perfect environment for thrush is created.

Once established, thrush attacks the frog. It is easily recognized by its putrid odor and the cheesy appearance of the frog. A black serum is also present in the central and lateral sulci around the frog. Left unattended, thrush can eventually invade sensitive tissue causing lameness.

Treatment consists of providing a clean, dry environment (although that may not be possible until dry weather arrives), paring away the affected parts of the frog and treating topically. There are several thrush treatment products available on the market. There are also natural and home remedies.

Research indicates that these bacteria can

live up to three days following exposure to oxygen, so daily cleaning of the feet is very important.

Abscesses

Anyone who has been around equines long enough has seen an abscess or two. While abscesses can occur at any time, they are very common during wet muddy weather. Most commonly, abscesses result from bacteria being introduced into the sensitive tissues of the foot and being sealed off to fester. This can occur very easily when the animal steps on a sharp object resulting in a puncture. While some punctures are visible, others are not. Even tiny punctures can result in abscesses if they reach sensitive tissue. Bacteria may also travel into sensitive tissues via cracks, splits or separations in the hoof wall or sole. As hooves soften and expand in wet conditions, the white line and sole become more susceptible to bacterial invasion. The longer hooves soak in muddy conditions, the greater the chances of bacterial infection.

Another type of abscess results from extreme bruising. If bruising is severe enough to result in tissue death (necrosis) abscesses may develop. This particular form of abscess occurs without regard to soil moisture conditions.

Symptoms of an abscess may include: heat in the affected hoof and/or pastern, possible swelling and lameness. Abscesses can be extremely painful and lameness may range from mild to severe. In the worst cases, the animal may refuse to bear any weight on the affected limb.

In some cases, an obvious puncture may be visible. In other cases, a puncture or tract may be located only after paring of the sole. Still other cases will have no obvious puncture.

If the abscess can be opened and drained, visible pain relief is immediately obvious. While healing, the foot should be kept clean (either through wraps, boots or dry stalling) and the drain hole should remain clear.

Unfortunately, abscesses are not always located on the initial attempt. In these cases, repeated soakings with buckets or soaker boots, poultices, or antibiotics may be necessary to encourage the abscess to erupt and/or clear. On their own, abscesses will blow out following the path of least resistance. This may be anywhere from the hairline to the sole. Blow outs on the hoof wall generally take the form of a horizontal split.

Scratches

"Scratches" is a dermatitis of the pastern region. It is caused by a fungus but can involve an anaerobic bacterial component. It generally occurs to the rear of the pastern between the fetlock and heel. It is commonly associated with persistent muddy stabling conditions, moisture and cold. Scratches appears as a chapped, scabby or crusted patch. The area may be tender to the touch and the bulb of the heel may be visibly red and inflamed. In some cases, leg swelling may be present.

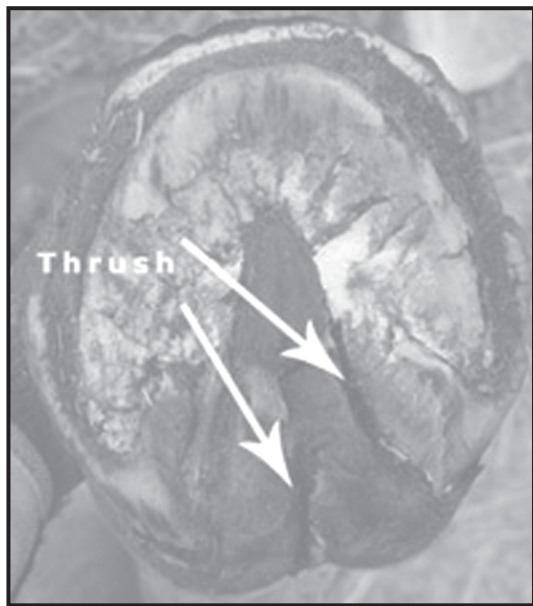
Scratches is also known as pastern dermatitis, mud fever or dew poisoning. The terms "scratches" and "grease heel" are often used interchangeably. However, some equine health care practitioners make a distinction between the two, stating that grease heel is either a specific infection of the skin's oil glands or eczema. In severe cases, both conditions can lead to lameness.

Scratches is most easily avoided by providing clean dry stabling areas. In muddy, wet

regions, this is often easier said than done. Another method to help avoid the condition is to clip long, matted and/or dirty fetlock hair (feathers). While fetlock hair can serve a protective function, filthy wet hair encourages infection. In addition, excessive washing of the lower legs and use of deep abrasive footing should be avoided. The latter can lead to pastern irritation and skin sores which open pathways to infection. If contracted, scratches is generally treatable by careful cleaning and topical medications.

Muddy conditions or not, it is always a good practice to keep a close eye on your animals' hooves. If you see something suspicious, contact your vet or farrier immediately. The sooner infections are dealt with the better!

Until next time, enjoy the warming weather!



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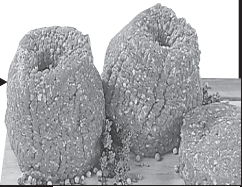
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