



DENTISTRY

Dr. Crawford has received training in veterinary school, dental wetlabs and internship to manage your horse's dental health. Horse's teeth continually erupt through life and are worn as they chew. Their upper jaw is wider than their lower jaw and they chew in roughly a circular motion which causes them to form sharp points on the edges of their teeth. They can become severe enough that they will cut into your horse's cheeks and cause ulcerations and discomfort. Most horse's need their teeth floated (or the sharp points filed down) about once a year. Younger horses (and sometimes older) may have "wolf teeth" (first premolars) that interfere with the bit and need to be removed. Horses can also develop an irregular occlusion (how the teeth meet) and become inefficient chewers, thus wasting expensive feed. If your horse is dropping feed, evading the bit, or has foul breath they should have an oral exam performed.

COGGINS AND HEALTH CERTIFICATES

Traveling with your horse? You will need a yearly negative Coggins, or Equine Infectious Anemia, test and if you plan to cross state lines a health certificate within the last 30 days. Make sure you plan ahead and leave yourself enough time to get test results back before your show/travel date.

LAMENESS

When your horse is lame, Dr. Crawford can provide a comprehensive assessment through physical exam, gait analysis, flexion tests, and diagnostic nerve blocks. Nerve blocks allow us to localize an area of pain by systematic "blocking" of sensation in peripheral nerves with local anesthetic. The block wears off gradually in a couple of hours and leaves no lasting effect. Once lameness is localized, radiographs and/or ultrasound images may reveal the cause. When a location and cause of lameness are determined, a treatment plan that suits the horse's needs and your budget can be designed.

REPRODUCTION

Whether this is your first experience or you're well acquainted with the breeding shed Four Star Equine can help you through the process of assessing your horse's breeding soundness, securing a pregnancy, foaling, and foal care.

PRE-PURCHASE EXAM

A new horse is a significant investment, make sure it is a good one by having a pre-purchase examination performed. Your potential horse will be examined from head to tail with special attention to health history, conformation, soundness, suitability, and ocular/cardiac/airway health. Each pre-purchase exam is tailored to your individual needs and the horse's use. Exams can include full radiographs and bloodwork or can be as simple as a thorough physical exam.

NUTRITION CONSULTATION

Just as in people, many issues can arise from an unbalanced diet. Horses absolutely need adequate fiber, trace minerals, and vitamins in the proper ratios. If you are concerned about your horse's diet – maybe they are hard keepers or obese or just unthrifty – their diet can be examined. Dr. Crawford can also refer you to nutrition experts that can design a plan specific to your horse's needs.