

# Smokey Mountain Mobile Vet Newsletter

**WINTER 2008/2009**

Hello and Merry Christmas!! Wow, this year has flown by and before you know it we will have to remember to write 2009 on all our checks. And what a year it has been, between a roller coaster of an economy and gas prices, uncertain times, increasing prices and another drought. But we can make it, we just have to buckle down a bit.

*Dr. Mary Coker*



## W inter weather care:

**BRRR!!!!** it's cold outside and it's the time of year when we tend to hold up inside where it's warm and toasty. Yet this is the very time of year where animal care is a little more difficult and a lot more important. One of the first things that happens when cold weather comes in is we all of a sudden feel dry and cracked. Well our animals start to dry out and dehydrate also, so the access to water is all the more important. However, as the temperature drops that stream or other source of water begins to turn cold and either partially or completely freeze over. I remember one time I went to see a colic and when I asked about the water source I was directed to the stream with a tub to collect the water. The problem was the water was frozen. So the horse effectively had no water. What is the solution. Well you can regularly (daily) check on that stream and tub to make sure that the water is running good. You may need to break the ice. A nice solution is a bucket/tub deicer. These deicers are temperature controlled, coming on at 40-45 F to keep the water from freezing. There are several types, some that float, some that sit on the bottom of the tub, and some that are just a 5-gallon bucket deicer for use in stalls. Most of these have a covering over the cord to prevent fire damage. If you get one of these make sure that you get the correct deicer for the tub you have (either plastic or metal). Remember to make sure that the water hose is completely drained and disconnected from the water faucet after use. Make sure your pipes are dug deep enough or well insulated.

Even though water is important making sure that your animals are fed regularly and sufficiently. Our animals need a constant source of food, preferably hay or other source of fiber to help maintain body warmth. So think in advance, put a little extra hay out on those nights when it's supposed to cold.

Lastly, and certainly not least is to provide shelter. Now shelter comes in many forms, from a good stand of trees to a nice barn. When to bring them into the shelter is each owner's individual decision but the important factor is that when the weather turns nasty, especially wet, they need access to shelter. Clean water, regular good food and shelter, the basis of care but all the more important in the wintertime.

**OUCH!!**

Well they finally declared a recession, something we have felt for a while. Here are some tips to save money in these difficult times: \*Combine a vet visit with your neighbor or other boarder; \*Maintain a regular feeding schedule with good quality feed. In the end you spend less when you keep life regular; \*Act don't react: vaccinate vs. freak out; prevent injury/sickness by providing a safe/healthy home verses saying I'll get to it later then having to fix something after it cause an accident or illness; \*Bring them to me and save the trip fee.



## MATERNITY SCHEDULE AND OTHER INFO:

As most of you know I am expecting, due date of January 8, 2009, so as of right now I am beginning to waddle and find it a little difficult to get around. I am slowing down with my vet work and planning on going on maternity leave December 20 and plan on taking about 3-4 weeks to get used to being a mom. I will be checking my voice and email regularly so I am still available for questions (828-421-0030 or [smokeymtnmobilevet@yahoo.com](mailto:smokeymtnmobilevet@yahoo.com)), though please understand if I am a little slow in my response. As for routine or non emergency veterinary care many of your animals will be okay to wait a few weeks. As for emergencies you will need to call the following numbers:

- ★ Junaluska animal hospital: 452-1478
- ★ Country lane animal hospital: 627-9100
- ★ Equine after hours emergency: 550-3897

Soon my new little "assistant" and I will be back on the job



Get \$5 FREE!!!!!!!

Refer a friend if they make an appointment you get \$5. No limit.

Save a tree so that we may enjoy them. Update your information with your email address so that you can get the next newsletters as E-newsletter. Send me your email address to [smokeymtnmobilevet@yahoo.com](mailto:smokeymtnmobilevet@yahoo.com)



## NEW AND EXPANDED SERVICES

AS TIMES CHANGE, SO TOO ARE CHANGES IN THE SERVICES I OFFER. I HAVE EXPANDED THE SERVICES I OFFER TO INCLUDE SOME SMALL ANIMAL WORK, NAMELY WITH DOGS AND IN THE FORM OF VACCINATIONS AND HEARTWORM TESTING. OTHER PREVENTATIVE CARE THAT WILL BE OFFERED WILL BE ANNUAL EXAMS, PARASITE CONTROL AND OTHER ROUTINE BLOOD WORK. AT THIS TIME I AM NOT ABLE TO DO ANY COMPLEX SURGERY. FOR SMALL ANIMAL OWNERS YOU WILL STILL NEED TO HAVE A REGULAR SMALL ANIMAL PRACTITIONER FOR MORE ADVANCED MEDICINE AND EMERGENCIES.

**SMOKEY MTN MOBILE VET**  
**258 RILEY RIDGE**  
**WAYNESVILLE NC 28785**

**JIM COUNTS**  
**408 PINNACLE DR.**  
**WAYNESVILLE NC 28785**