

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Veterinary.

STALLION SLOW TO SERVE

Stallion refuses to serve young mares. He proves sure when he can be induced to serve. He stands for service at his own stable. I think he masturbates, and I keep a shield on him.

W. M. P.

Ans.—Characteristics of this nature, whether from congenital weakness of the genital organs, or from other idiosyncrasies of the stallion, are hard to overcome. Medicines do no good; certain medicines will increase the venereal appetite by causing irritation to the genitals, and will probably have the result of causing the stallion to apparently perform the functions of a sire, but he will not produce foals under such conditions, and the practice is injurious, hence we never prescribe drugs. Feed moderately well on good hay and oats, with a carrot or two daily, and a feed of bran with a little linseed meal twice weekly. As soon as the grass grows, allow him to have some every day. Give him regular exercise, of not less than 8 to 10 miles daily, and do not require him to serve more than one mare on any day.

V.

BLACK QUARTER.

Healthy two-year-old steer began to swell on his shoulder, and was lame; the swelling increased, and was sore to pressure. He died inside of 24 hours. Is it contagious, and is there any cure?

SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—The symptoms given indicate black quarter, for which there is practically no cure. It is caused by young cattle pasturing on or eating hay that grew on low-lying pastures. Prevention consists in keeping stock away from infected fodder, hence (provided my diagnosis is correct) you should cease feeding the hay you fed to this one. Immunity can be given with reasonable certainty, although it may not act in all cases, by using anti-blackleg serum or vaccine, which, with instructions and the necessary instruments, can be procured from manufacturing chemists. All carcasses should be burned. Of course, this steer may have received a severe injury to the shoulder that caused death. If you have any more trouble, call your veterinarian.

V.

LAME HORSE.

While plowing last May, my horse commenced to step short with left fore foot, and was a little lame. Next morning, he was very lame and swollen on the side of the neck. I called a veterinarian, and he said it was probable an abscess was forming. He got very thin, but no abscess formed, and he commenced to recover, and got all right in three months. I started to work him again, and he went all right until September 20th, when he again went lame, and has remained so. His shoulder has fallen away, and so have the muscles of the leg. I blistered for sweeney without results. He appears unable to fetch the leg forward without trouble.

T. H.

Ans.—The horse has sprained the muscles of the shoulder, causing a bad case of sweeney. It will require a long time for recovery to take place. You will, in all probability, have to give him several months' rest, and blister the shrunk muscles once every month. Details for blistering are given in this issue in answer to question by S. A. M.

V.

ENLARGED HOCK.

Filly got kicked on hock. The joint oil escaped freely. It has healed, but the joint is greatly enlarged and seems to contain fluid, and she is very lame.

S. A. M.

Ans.—It is seldom a case of open joint like this recovers. If the swelling really contains fluid, it will break out again. If it has not broken by the time you see this, blister it with 1½ drams each, biniodide of mercury and cantharides, mixed with 2 ozs. vaseline. Clip the hair off, tie so that she cannot bite the parts. Rub well with blister daily for two applications; on the third day wash off and apply sweet oil. Let head loose now, and oil every day. Repeat the blistering once monthly, and it is probable you will reduce the enlargement, but it is not probable it will ever regain its normal size. If it breaks again, flush the cavity out twice daily with a five-percent. solution of carbolic acid.

V.

INVERSION OF VAGINA AND RECTUM.

Two-year-old filly strained so hard that she caused the womb to protrude as large as a 7-inch ball. The rectum also protrudes. It has been out as much as two feet. We called a veterinarian, but he said he could do nothing.

J. K.

Ans.—The womb is not inverted; it is the vagina. The excessive straining must have been caused by constipation or impaction of the colon. It is very probable she will be dead before you get this, as the case was so bad when your veterinarian saw it that he could do nothing. Treatment consists in thoroughly washing both vagina and rectum with warm water with ten-per-cent. laudanum, then dressing with alum water, 2 ozs. to the pint, removing all faeces from the rectum, returning both viscera and applying a truss to prevent reinversion. The truss consists of a piece of leather or other substance placed against the anus and vulva, and kept there by ropes tied to a collar on the filly's neck. A man must exercise his own ideas in securing the truss, as its shape and mode of keeping it in place will depend greatly upon the form of the patient, the idea being to apply sufficient pressure to prevent reinversion. She should be given about 1½ pints of raw linseed oil to act gently upon her bowels, and the truss must be removed occasionally, say every five or six hours, to allow her to defecate, and after defecation a little of the alum water, heated to 100 degrees Fahr., should be injected into each passage. Careful treatment will effect a cure in mild cases, but in such a case as you describe, where there is double inversion, and that of the rectum so extensive, it is not probable that recovery would result from any treatment.

V.

BURSAL ENLARGEMENT.

Clydesdale mare has bursal enlargement. I have blistered several times, without result.

T. J. M.

Ans.—Chronic bursal enlargements are very hard to reduce, and when repeated blistering does not effect a reduction, other applications often fail too. Try a liniment composed of 4 drams each resublimed iodine crystals and iodide of potassium, and 4 ounces each glycerine and alcohol. Rub a little in with smart friction once daily. If this fails, an operation might be successful; but the advisability of operating will depend largely upon the nature and situation of the enlargement.

V.

FATALITY IN PIGS.

Sow farrowed in January, and when about three weeks old, the pigs failed away, got very thin, panted for breath, and all but four died. Another sow farrowed fifteen pigs on February 15th, and they are going the same way. I feed the sows on barley and oat chop, and let them out for exercise every fine day.

F. J. G.

Ans.—The pigs die from constipation. Change the sow's food. Give a mixture of 1 part finely-chopped peas, and three parts bran mixed with milk. Give all the raw roots they will eat, and see that the young pigs, as well as the sows, get regular exercise. Give each pig about ½ ounce castor oil, and if this does not cause a free action of the bowels, repeat the dose next day.

V.

STALLION REFUSES TO SERVE.

Hackney stallion, 8 years old, kept at owner's stable for private use, and who is never bred to more than 20 mares in a season, will often refuse to serve. I keep a shield on him when in the stable. He produces a large percentage of foals from mares that he serves.

M. P.

Ans.—It is probable this stallion does not get sufficient exercise. Keep him in moderate condition, on good food, as hay and oats, with a carrot or two daily, and a feed of bran twice or three times weekly. Give him regular exercise, say 8 to 10 miles daily, in harness or on the halter. Get him in good condition this way, and it is probable he will give better satisfaction. Some stallions have this peculiarity, and while the venereal appetite can be increased by the administration of certain drugs that cause an irritation to the generative organs, it is injurious to the horse, and he will not produce foals under these conditions.

V.

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BOOK ON BREEDING, ETC.

Do you keep in stock a book on "Breeding and serving mares, and how to handle a stallion during the season?"

G. V. S.

Ans.—I do not know of any work on this subject. Particulars to be observed during service can be obtained from any stud groom. During the season the stallion should be well fed on good hay and oats, with a feed of bran with a cupful of linseed meal at least twice weekly; a carrot or two daily is also good. When grass can be obtained he should get a little daily. He should have regular exercise, at least eight miles daily, and should not be bred to more than 60 mares in two months, and not to more than two any day.

V.