

For AMERICAN QUARTER HORSE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

AMERICA'S HORSE

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READY FOR A CHALLENGE
NAVIGATING THE
INAUGURAL AQHA
TRAIL CHALLENGE



AAEP Q&A

THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF EQUINE PRACTITIONERS IS AN AQHA educational marketing alliance partner. You'll find regular advice from AAEP veterinarians on www.aaep.org and on americashorsedaily.com.

Question:

MY 8-YEAR-OLD MARE'S EYES ARE ALWAYS TEARING. I HAVE HAD her tear ducts flushed, and she has been on antibiotics for her eye, but nothing seems to help. It occurs all year, and she is outside most of the day. Do you have any suggestions on how to clear it up?

Answer:

TEAR DUCTS ARE ONE OF THOSE THINGS IN LIFE THAT YOU DON'T miss until they're not working properly!

For tears to flow onto the face, one of three things has to be happening:

1. The horse is making too many tears (excessive tearing).
2. There is an alternate route for tears to be flowing onto the face instead of through the tear ducts (like extra hairs or a defect in the eyelids).
3. The tear ducts are obstructed, which prevents tears from draining.

Obstruction of the tear duct is probably the most common reason for excessive tear flow onto the face. The first diagnostic procedure for assessing the function of the tear ducts is flushing, just as your veterinarian has done. However, just because the tear ducts can be flushed does not mean that tears will be able to passively flow through.

One diagnostic test that can assess the normal function of tear ducts involves putting a fluorescein dye in the eye, sedating the horse so she puts her head down and timing how long it takes for the dye to reach the opening of the

tear duct in the nose. If an obstruction is present, then additional testing is necessary to determine the location of the obstruction and the appropriate treatment.

If your horse's tear ducts flush normally and have normal passive flow, then the next step is to start looking for a reason for excessive tearing. The reasons for excessive tearing are very diverse, since tearing is a very non-specific response by the eye to a wide variety of stimuli. It is very important to rule out intraocular disease, particularly equine recurrent uveitis. If no other abnormalities are identified on the ophthalmic examination, then considering seasonal allergies or an environmental irritant is reasonable.

In this case, I'd recommend working with your veterinarian and possibly a veterinary ophthalmologist to get to the bottom of your horse's tearing.

DR. AMBER LABELLE, AAEP



HOLLY CLANAHAN

Get Ready for Battle

THE SCHEDULE FOR THE 2012 BATTLE IN THE SADDLE, JULY 3-8 IN Oklahoma City, is available at www.battleinthesaddle.com.

The 2012 event will feature versatility ranch horse competition, cutting, roping, cowboy mounted shooting, barrel racing, working cow horse, ranch sorting, ranch pleasure, a ranch remuda challenge and the third annual World's Greatest Horseman Shootout.

Battle in the Saddle will also host the 2012 Merial Ranch Sorting National Championships.

In order to involve as many alliance events as possible, AQHA welcomed the Ranch Sorting National Championships as a

new alliance partner. As a result, RSNC members who compete on American Quarter Horses have the chance to earn points and qualify for both an AQHA world championship show and the RSNC National Finals during the same class.

Battle in the Saddle is owned by Oklahoma State Fair and managed by the American Quarter Horse Association. All breeds are welcome, but American Quarter Horses competing will receive AQHA points.

This year's Battle in the Saddle will include \$144,000 in added money, making more than \$300,000 in purses. The event will once again be featured on RFD-TV.

