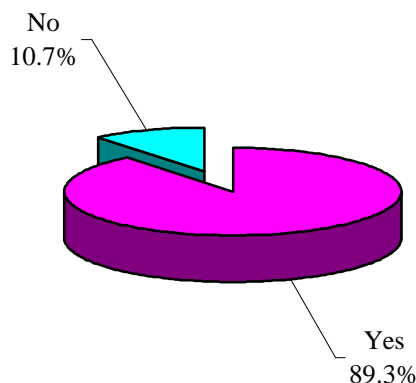


Health Issues

Veterinarian issues. Comments by owners suggests that their knowledge about many health issues and concerns ranged from well informed to minimal. They (horse owners) have placed a broad onus on the “horse industry within Alberta” to be knowledgeable and educated regarding diseases, illnesses, injuries and any vaccinations, drugs and/or relevant medical procedures and to make this information readily available. Owners cited that they perceived that they are unlikely to hear or learn about industry related events since most are not in the main stream of the industry, thus, they tend to rely on various medias, associations and professionals for information. One key venue for information and assistance is the veterinarian. To this end, respondents were asked if they had used the services of a veterinarian during the past twelve months. The following graph illustrates that 89.3% of respondents used veterinarian services.

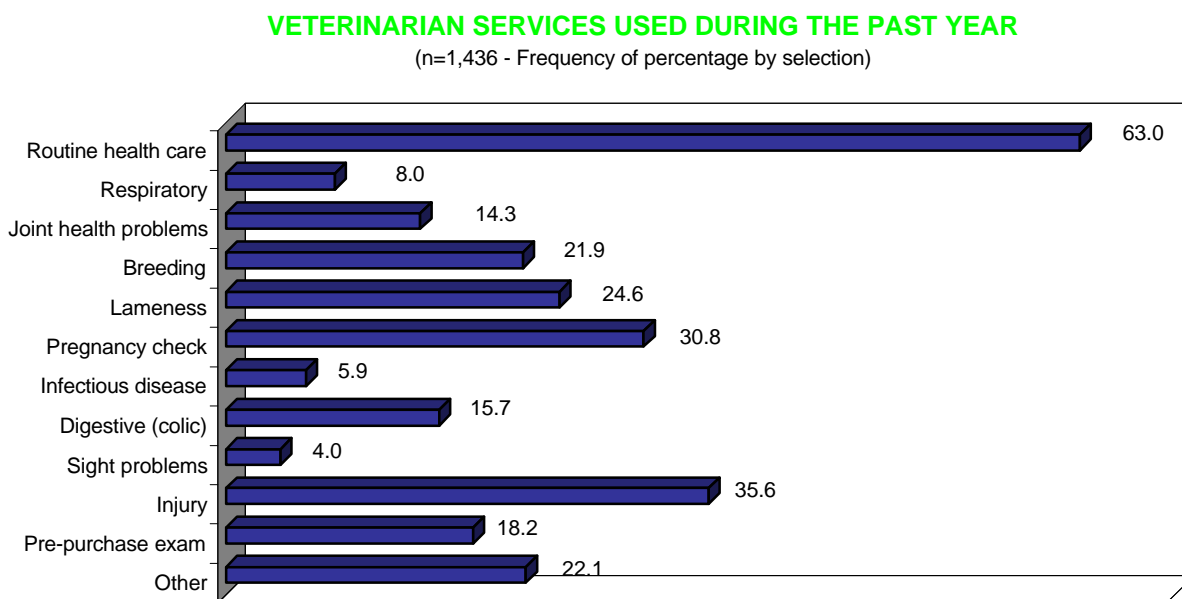
HAVE YOU USED VETERINARIAN SERVICES IN THE PAST YEAR

(n=1,612)



Graph 62. Have You Used Veterinarian Services In The Past Year?

Of this 89.3% of respondents indicating “yes” to using veterinarian services, the most frequent use of veterinarian services was for routine health care (63.0%) for their horses, with the second frequent reason cited as due to injury (35.6%) while the third most frequent reason for requiring service was pregnancy testing (30.8%).



Graph 63. Veterinarian Services Used During the Past Year

Respondents provided “other” reasons for utilizing veterinarian services as follows:

- Acupuncture
- Blood for DNA Registration
- Branding
- Castration
- Chiropractic Treatments
- Coggins International Health Certificate
- Dental
- Euthanasia
- Insurance Exam
- Massage Therapy
- Micro chipping
- Postmortem Examination
- Ultrasound
- Veterinarian Supplies

Specific illnesses that horse owners reported include: cancer, tumors, diabetes, dehydration and weight loss, swollen sheath, swelling due to edema, torn muscles and lacerations, skin conditions, sinus infection,

hormonal problems, dental float, abscess, heart problems, anti-heat control shots and pills, deformed epiglottis, bone chips in knee, stroke, entritice, liver ailment, hernia, prolapsed uterus, breach birth, paralytic rhine, mastitis, herpes/shingles, Cushing disease, and porcupine quill removal.

Health related issues, problems or concerns facing the horse industry. Owning and maintaining a healthy horse or herd may pose many problems and concerns to stakeholders. Respondents were asked to describe their concerns or issues relating to the health of their horse(s). The majority of responses from this opened-ended question dealt with diseases. Issues ranged from new diseases coming into the area (West Nile Virus) to swamp fever. There were an overwhelming number of West Nile Virus comments, as this seems to be the most significant concern known to be facing the horse industry in the near future. Other disease and infection related comments ranged from Horse Cough, Equine Infectious Anemia, etc.

Vaccines were another major area of concern for horse owners. Comments ranged from the rising cost of vaccinations, to the lack of proper administration of vaccines, to over-vaccination. The lack of awareness (which alone was another well commented topic) of proper care techniques, showing sick horses, and vaccination needs seemed to disturb the individuals who had formal education.

Relating to the lack of knowledge of owning a horse, there were many issues raised about proper shoeing techniques, mistreatment, unhealthy environments for the horses and just common sense and proper maintenance. An often-occurring topic was the over-riding of young horses, leading to additional problems during the horse's life.

Respondents observed that in addition to disease, vaccinations, climate change, pasture management and general awareness of issues and solutions. Some respondents expressed that there was a serious concern about breeding practices and the overall quality of horses being produced. It was perceived that there appears to be few safeguards to ensure that adequate management of the breeding practices within the industry are monitored or enforced. Therefore, there is a potential to compromise the quality of individual breeds of horses.

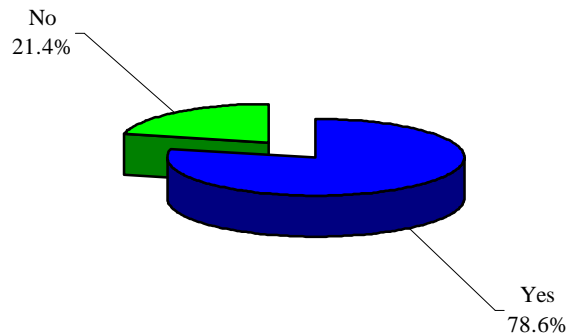
Although most respondents had some type of concern or problem, there were a few that did have positive comments. Respondents have mentioned that the horse industry should have a newsletter for health related issues would be appreciated in an effort to keep everyone informed.

Feed and Pasture Management

Feed and supplements Feed and supplement use is important to the understanding of the care and maintenance of a healthy horse. Owners were asked if they used feed supplements and what they used. The results indicated that 78.6% of horse owners reported adding supplements to their feed. They consistently reported that this was, in large part, due to poor weather conditions, a feed shortage and poor quality in the hay and grain available. In an effort to ensure the good health of their animals, respondents believed in the necessity of adding additional supplements to increase the quality of their feed. Ninety point six percent reported using vitamins, minerals and proteins. Joint care was also an area within which owners felt they needed to take a proactive stance. Performance enhancers were used by 11.2% of owners.

DO YOU USE A SUPPLEMENT IN YOUR FEED?

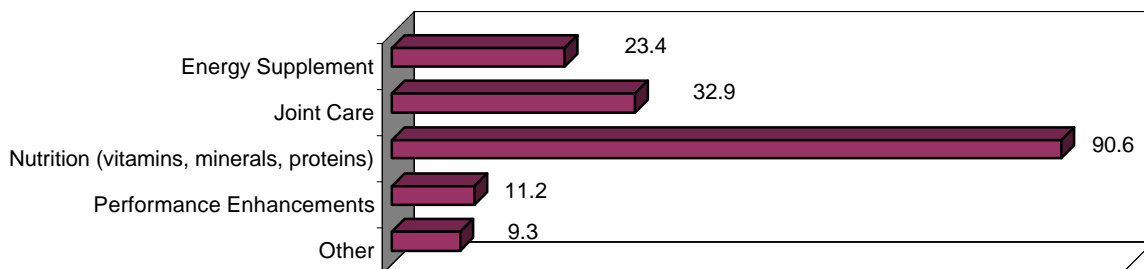
(n=1,596)



Graph 64. Do You Use A Supplement In Your Feed?

SUPPLEMENTS USED:

(n=1,254 - Frequency of Selection)



Graph 65. Supplement Used