

Monthly Newsletter –August-September 2014

A summer which is recording extreme heat on quite a few days continues. Actually quite a number of regions throughout the world have been experiencing some unusually hot weather while others are inundated with higher than average rainfall. The autumn month of September comes along and one wonders if it will be more of an “Indian summer” as New Englanders used to call a sunny, but cool season or yet more downpours. In these times when one hears so often of global warming as well as numerous natural disasters, it makes sense to reflect a bit on the impact of unusual heat on our animals and whether some simple precautions might not be wise to protect them--especially horses and camels since they graze outdoors and spend considerable time in the open air. What should be done for them in the case of extreme temperatures?

Extreme Heat: in the case of heat which leads to drought and the absence of adequate rainfall and verdant pastures one must:

Verify that animals who can become dehydrated have an adequate quantity and quality of drinking water.

Verify that the grass(es) which manage to resist the heat on the pastureland are not strains or species dangerous to those animals needing something on which to graze.

Procure other forms of food and nourishment such as complete nutritional supplements: either powder or cubes or granulated (grain).

Water must be fresh and cool....not old and moldy.

Have sufficient provisions of hay (ex. Gulf Regions) knowing that may entail extra expense.

Be prepared with all sorts of products to control, and get rid of the proliferation of harmful insects. Avoid infections viral or other.

Extreme cold/snow storms:

Verify that stables and other buildings are solid and adequately insulated to withstand heavy snow storms.

Have ready access to water supply; snow not being reliably digestible.

Check for plentiful foodstocks to last through the winter and its temperatures.

Plan for adequate space to lodge animals in stables which are regularly cleaned.

Voila! Just some common sense solutions.....but not always so common!!

Next month we'll examine some measures to take for winners in the horse races!

The Editor