

Buggies are gone but horses are still around

By FRANK BENSON

There's more to caring for a horse than joggling on its back and yelling "Giddy up!"

And the horse is alive and well in the place than in a western movie. According to Dr. Michael Hall, a South Lyon veterinarian, there are more than 100,000 horses in Michigan and perhaps 20,000 in Wayne and Oakland counties.

Dr. Hall teaches horse care courses to growing numbers of students at Oakland

Community College and Schoolcraft College. Detroit, Hare, Course and Northville Owners are here for about 1,000 horses. But many people in the area own horses as pets.

"THERE HAS BEEN a phenomenal rise in the number of horses owned as pets in the last 25 years or so," said Hall. "I'm not sure of the figures, but I do know there are more horses in the United States today than in 1900 when horses were a primary source of transportation."

Along with Dr. Ken Gallagher and Dr. Tim Keating, Dr. Hall teaches a course at OCC dealing with care and handling of horses. Called "Advanced Equine Seminars," it's designed to help horse owners deal with minor medical problems.

Veterinarians become gunshy when owners always call, telling us their horse is sick when often it is only a minor cut. When a real emergency occurs, we may not be as quick to respond.

The course is basically to let the horse owner become aware of our job," said Hall.

ANOTHER COURSE taught at OCC's Orchard Ridge campus in Farmington Hills is "Horse Care and Management." This course has four sessions: daily care and feeding. It is taught by David Burensky, who is not a veterinarian but a trainer at Schoolcraft College in Livonia.

Dr. Hall teaches "Equine Podiatry," a detailed study of horse limbs and the problems of perhaps the most serious injury a horse can endure—lameness. It will be offered in the winter semester beginning after the first of the year.

People are fascinated by the problems of a lame horse and what to do about it. But the everyday, more likely, problems, such as worming and vaccines are probably more important to the horse owner, said Hall.

ANYONE WHO CAN should own a horse, he feels. And it has become a status symbol in suburban Detroit.

But before buying a horse, would the

owners should recognize two important factors, he said.

First, they should not be afraid to work with their horses. "Discipline is a must, and the owner should not be afraid of it," Hall said.

Second, the horse owner should be aware of the problems that can arise and the costs. "The initial purchase cost will

be relatively small," Hall pointed out, but worming must be done four to six times a year, as well as dental care and so on.

Hall said the horse courses at Schoolcraft and OCC help owners realize those problems and make them better owners.

There are many old wives tales about horses and horse care that need to be

cleared up. Trainers, while they are super, or horse men are not aware of medical problems that may plague horses.

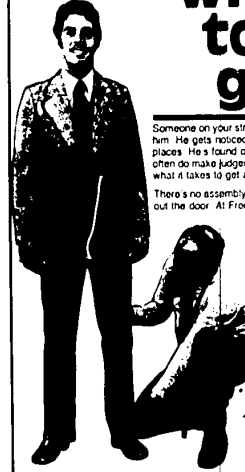
After all, he said with a smile, horses are not just big dogs.

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Dr. Michael Hall and client.

M-59 paving, bike path to be hearing topic

The reconstruction of M-59 in Oakland and Livingston counties will again be discussed by the Michigan Department of State Highways and Transportation. The 10-mile stretch from US 24 in Livingston County to Hill Road in Oakland County east of Highland is currently a two-lane highway.

A public meeting in Highland Junior High School, 100 E. 11th St., Highland, at 8 p.m. Dec. 14, will discuss a change in reconstruction plans for M-59. It will be a four-lane highway with a boulevard and two cycle paths.

At a public hearing, State Dept. representatives recommended the reconstruction of a four-lane highway with a boulevard and two cycle paths.

The subject plan calls for the existing two-lane highway to serve as two-lane boulevard with a new four-lane highway to be constructed north of and parallel to the existing road, serving as a boulevard and two cycle paths.

Present plans call for taking of bids on the project in November 1979.

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