

## **The Use of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine to Treat Infectious Diseases in Horses and Livestock: Plant Medicine Powerhouses**

This presentation will address the very common summer and fall season infectious disease veterinary call to treat infectious lymphadenitis caused by *Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis*. Included in the discussion will be the lymphatic response to this infection, the possible TCVM patterns, and a detailed analysis of the herbal formula to use to treat these cases. Case reports are included to illustrate concepts and herb selection.

Large animal TCVM practitioners in the US often limit their practice to the use of acupuncture to treat orthopedic injury, improve or enhance athletic performance, or manage seniors with chronic changes in their musculo-skeletal system which impacts their quality of life and may impact their longevity. When these same practitioners are asked to respond to acute medical conditions or infectious disease in large animals they often default to Conventional Western Medicine (CWM) because it is familiar, and seems effective and straightforward (antibiotic treatment for infections, NSAIDS for trauma, fever, and pain). However, concerns with GI microbiome derangements secondary to the use of antimicrobials, regulations regarding the use of antimicrobials in food animals, and recent reports of non-target species contamination with pharmaceuticals administered to livestock species has encouraged many practitioners to have second thoughts about the administration of these medications (especially when laboratory support for their use has not been yet been determined). Additionally, many practitioners are now very aware of the significant impact of NSAIDS on the GI tract of both horses and livestock species and prescribing these medications is certainly acknowledged as something that needs a risk benefit analysis for each case. TCVM offers substantial support for treatment of infectious disease in large animals. Emergency responders can employ the use of time tested traditional herbal formulas backed by current research into their pharmaceutically active components without the risk of microbiome derangement, GI ulcers, and environmental contamination.

*Corynebacterium pseudotuberculosis* biovar equi provides an excellent model for the virulence of infectious diseases in horses and other livestock species. An understanding of the anatomy and function of the lymphatic system, and its similarity to the TCM concept of Wei Qi and Body fluid, and a review of the herbs included in the traditional formula Pu Ji Xiao Du Yin (Universal Benefit Decoction To Clear Toxic Heat) will empower practitioners responding to acute infectious emergencies to utilize the plant medicine powerhouses included in this formula.