

## MEET YOUR CLINICIANS

Dr. Keith Murch DVM - Topic: Foot Conformation Clinic

Dr. Murch graduated from the University of Guelph in 1977. He returned to his native province of New Brunswick to work in the large animal clinic in Fredericton as an employee of the provincial government veterinarian services. He continues his clinical duties along with managing the Veterinary Field Services for the Department of Agriculture and Aquaculture which includes nineteen veterinarians located throughout the province. He is a member of the New Brunswick Veterinary Medical Association and the American Association of Equine Practitioners. Dr. Murch's clinical expertise is with horses with special interest in lameness and other performance related areas and with equine reproduction. Dr. Murch and his family live on a small hobby farm in Keswick Ridge along with their three Canadian horses, two goats and two alpacas.

Mark Pitcher DWCF – Topic: Natural Balance Shoeing.

Mark Pitcher is a licensed farrier who completed a four year apprenticeship in England attaining his Diploma of the Worshipful Company of Farriers (DWCF). After practicing in England for a number of years Mark moved with his family to Canada where he continued his farrier career for ten years. He then moved back to England for eleven years. It was during this period he discovered Natural Balance Shoeing. This technique is a result of a study done on wild horses by an American named Gene Ovincek and it was introduced into England by Dave Nichols, a good friend of Mark.

Mark began using natural balance shoeing in collaboration with veterinarian practices he shod for and found the results were amazing. He found that horses were moving better and horses that had periods of lameness were coming sound. Mark returned again to Canada and has continued with this form of shoeing. He had worked with Dr. Murch when previously in Canada and now reestablished his association with Dr. Murch and for the past two years they have enjoyed a good working relationship helping horses with new balance shoeing and training techniques. Mark maintains that any form of remedial shoeing can only be done with good diagnostics from an equine veterinarian.

