as pain injections (see sidebar). Combine that with plenty of down time and good management to help the horse remain

Inflammation is the initial problem that occurs in joints. Left unattended, it might eventually lead to degenerative

Take exactly the same and can respond differently to treatment.

determine the appropriate length of time following injections before horses are able/allowed to return to

There is also the question of time off from performance following an injection. Peters notes that there is a move

On the other hand, if multiple injections into the same joint are needed to keep the horse sound and competitive,

veterinarians inject joints only if they need it

Does it increase the performance career? There are no studies showing that.” The AAEP recommends

Peters agrees: “If the joint is healthy, why do you need to go in and treat it? Can you make a good joint better?

there is nothing to have an effect on. I think waiting until clinical signs are present is more effective.”

further, if we believe that the injections decrease inflammation and if inflammation is not there one could argue

Injection Decisions

or with other medications, depending on the severity or stage of disease.

Because these two drugs act in different ways, veterinarians might administer one of them alone, in combination,

Polysulfated glycosaminoglycans are considered more “disease

inflammation in the joint.

administer intravenously or intramuscularly, respectively, or directly into the joint. They both aim to decrease

marketed as Legend) and polysulfated glycosaminoglycan, or PSGAG, (Adequan) that veterinarians can

The particular substance injected depends on the joint involved, the veterinarian’s preference, the horse’s

horses that have received multiple injections in the same area over time and make injections more difficult.

0.5% of injected horses suffer from either a joint infection or joint flare. If the

Potential for damaging joint inflammation that

articular joint injections, which

Veterinarians stress the importance of approaching each case individually and conservatively. Joint injections are

use injections as performance enhancers or to mask pain, but rather to help horses perform their jobs comfortably

injections are the most beneficial joint therapy and provide the most good for horses with active inflammation in

performance level; and protect the existing joint cartilage. This technique will not, however, “cure” joint disease

they administer directly into joints. By medicating a horse’s joints they aim to decrease inflammation; restore

decreased performance. When this happens veterinarians often prescribe intra

In the case of degenerative joint disease, veterinarians may also use intra

If intraarterial injection or intra
damanging joint inflammation that

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