Examining the Acutely Neurologic Horse

A veterinarian should have several goals when triaging a neurologic horse, Munsterman said:

- Establish the presence and potential cause of a neurologic event;
- Rule out or identify problems involving other body systems;
- Initiate supportive care and treatment;
- Plan for future care and management.

Many equine neurologic conditions have acute or fulminating courses. Therefore, they must act quickly to prevent progression or deterioration in the horse's clinical condition. This is especially important in horses with spinal cord compression or lesions, which can cause neurologic deterioration if not treated quickly.