

Equine News: February 2024

Take action now to prepare for Spring!

Horses and ponies in their natural state will lose a significant amount of weight towards the end of winter. This is an important process to prevent obesity and help prevent laminitis by improving insulin sensitivity. Try to mimic the natural weight loss in your horse or pony over the next 2 months in preparation for Spring.



Do you want to know if your horse or pony has an increased susceptibility to laminitis?

Throughout March, take advantage of our 20% discount on insulin testing £55 (excluding visit)

For just £55 we will take a blood test for insulin levels and report the results back to you (visit not included). This information will help determine a plan for your horse for the high risk spring and early summer period at pasture.

Price includes blood sampling fee, lab fees, VAT and results reporting; including designing a management plan where required.

For a reduced price visit the newsletter will tell you the date of your next zone day - make sure to book your visit in plenty of time.

Laminitis Prevention Club : What's in your bucket?



In our first meeting of the year we tackled the tough subject of feeding and nutrition for the good doer. We focussed in particular on balancers, chaffs and low calorie feeds to see if they met our targets for low carbohydrates and calories, coupled with adequate levels of protein, omega-3 oil, as well as vitamins and minerals likely to be lacking in our area. Liz presented the nutritional needs for our ponies and her wish list for the products. Kelly analysed all the data on the various feeds in a large database. We were all surprised to find the levels varied greatly and no single product was able to meet all the targets. There is further homework here for us to now look at what might be the perfect combination of products to tick all the boxes.

It was great to see old and new members coming together in another friendly informal meeting with cakes and fruit and lots of great questions and ideas.

Equine Open Evening

It was such a pleasure to get together with clients and friends for our Equine Client Evening in early January. After postponing the event in November due to weather concerns, the weather for the new scheduled date was much kinder to us. Colin opened the evening with a short overview of the horse's respiratory system, ending with a 'comparative Olympics'! Liz followed on with two talks outlining infectious respiratory disease and equine asthma. There was interaction too with three volunteers kindly offering to breathe through tubes to illustrate the effect of narrowed airways. Moving to the equine athlete, Steph gave an overview of respiratory conditions which can affect athletic performance. The videos used in Steph's talk helped demonstrate exactly what happens in the horse's throat during exercise.



Vaccination rules

Vaccination intervals after 1st January 2024 have reduced date ranges. Any horse restarting their vaccinations or commencing a new primary course with effect from 1st January 2024 will be affected by the changes. Vaccinations that are up-to-date and correct will not be affected.

Vaccination Intervals for many sporting governing bodies have changed from 1st January 2024 as follows: *

- Vaccine 1 day 0
 - Vaccine 2 - must be given between 21 and 60 days (older rules 21-92 days)
 - Vaccine 3 - must be given between 120 and 180 days (older rules 150-215 days)
- Booster within 6 months or 12 months (depending on governing body)

We are currently recommending the following intervals as the middle ground between those on old and new rules:

- 2nd Vaccine given 21-60 days after 1st vaccine**
- 3rd vaccine given 150-180 days after 2nd vaccine**

It is **your responsibility** as the horse owner to ensure that your horse's vaccinations are up to date and comply with the rules of the governing body under which you are likely to compete.

We urge you to take responsibility for this and check your passports and competition rules.

Does your horse or pony suffer from Sweet Itch?

Like all allergies, preventing exposure to the source will always be the most effective strategy.



We therefore recommend planning ahead for the midge season and getting a good quality stretchy and close-fitting sweet itch rug with a belly panel on your pony 24 hours a day by the end of March.

Other strategies that may help include:

- Repel midges – use midge repellents
- Reduce itching – topical lotions/creams that soothe the skin to reduce scratching. Tea tree oil is often effective. Feed supplements containing nicotinamide can also reduce irritation.
- Prevent scratching – fence off any possible scratching posts in the paddock.
- An injectable vaccine can be used, it is off licence and is thought to modify the way the horse's immune system responds to the challenge of midge bites. The treatment is still in the early stages and lacks scientific proof. The course consists of two doses given 14 days apart. These doses need to be given before the midge season starts. Please get in touch for more information.

Zone Visits February and March

Zone 1 (NE44, NE46-47, NE49 & DH8) - Mon 5th Feb, Mon 4th March

Zone 2 (NE19, NE45 & NE48) - Mon 12th Feb, Mon 11th March

Zone 3 (NE1-7, NE12-15, NE18, NE20, NE22-30 & NE61) - usually Sally - Thurs 1st Feb, Thurs 7th March

usually Liz - Mon 19th Feb, Mon 18th March

Zone 4 (NE8-11, NE16-17, NE21, NE31-43) - Mon 26th Feb, Mon 25th March

Zone 5 (DH2-7, DH9 & DL13-16) - Tues 27th Feb, Tues 26th March

Zone visits offer a reduced price visit of £20 for one owner and £10 for more than one owner at same yard for planned routine veterinary work.

Pre-Season Health Plan Offer for February



For £160 (inc VAT), the Pre-Season Health Plan includes:

- Full examination incorporating lameness and medical review
- Gold standard dental examination and treatment including sedation
- Full blood profile including liver/kidney function
- 3 free worm egg counts and worming reminders
- 10% off vaccinations
- 1 free zone visit

That's a saving of over £130!

Offer open to horses and ponies of all ages. Enrolment onto this scheme is open throughout January and February; treatment under the terms of the scheme, i.e. full examination, dental examination and treatment, and full blood profile, must take place in January and February, with the exception of vaccinations. Annual membership fee or renewal must be paid in full prior to the visit.

Next Dental Clinic: Tuesday 27th February

The dental clinic allows us to work more efficiently and so we are able to pass on that saving to you with reduced price routine dentistry.



Dental clinics are for routine dental procedures only, all carried out under sedation.

Dental clinic routine dental inc. sedation £70 inc VAT

Dental clinic dental plus diastema flush and sedation £95 inc VAT

Terms and conditions: Payment must be made at the time of treatment. Please arrive at your allocated time and collect your horse promptly after treatment.