

# Equine News: March 2025

Equine Open Evening  
Wednesday 19th March 7pm  
Hexham Auction Mart function suite



Understanding Equine Behaviour- Ellie Girgis  
Safer Horse Rescue - Euan Laidlaw  
Managing Equine Wounds- Steph Cook



## Equine Open Evening

We look forward to welcoming you and your friends to the mart function suite for our annual equine open evening. We are delighted to have guest speaker Ellie Girgis from the Equine behaviour referral service at Edinburgh Vet School where she works alongside Gemma Pearson. Ellie will help improve our understanding of equine behaviour and teach us how to apply that knowledge to help manage problem behaviours and help identify if pain is present. These behaviour talks are always fascinating and there will be something for all horse owners to take away from the evening.

Euan will also present a talk about safer horse rescue to help understand how these challenging and stressful situations can be best managed.

Steph will also focus on equine emergencies with up to date advice on wounds and their management.

We will host a raffle in aid of Ellie Girgis's chosen charity Redwings so don't forget to bring some cash along to buy tickets.

Tea, Coffee and traybakes will be served from 6.30pm with talks starting at 7pm.

Please phone 01434 60899 to book your place.

## Laminitis Prevention

### *Do you know your horses risk of developing laminitis?*

A simple blood test for Insulin levels can indicate the risk level for your horse or pony. This allows management changes to be put in place to manage and reduce that risk prior to an episode developing. We know that rapid weight increase and having visible fat stores increases the risk but we also see laminitis in ponies in lean body condition. This is where Insulin testing can be such a useful tool.

### *Do you know which forages, feed and balancers are best suited to ponies with Equine Metabolic syndrome (high Insulin levels)?*

Usually a meadow or timothy hay that is tested and low in carbohydrates is most suitable. Soaking hay can help reduce the carbohydrate levels to some extent. Adding in some low calorie straw based chaff to the diet can help provide low carbohydrate fibre. A low carbohydrate balancer with good levels of protein is also required. Grass is likely to be the biggest source of sugars so grazing should always be severely restricted by time, area or the use of a muzzle.



## Laminitis Prevention Club

The laminitis prevention club is a collaboration between Scott Mitchell Veterinary Care and Horse Weighbridge North East and full membership provides weighing and body condition scoring service alongside insulin testing as well as access to the club benefits of newsletters and regular meetings to look at management strategies to manage laminitis risk.

In last month's meeting we discussed the impact of different grazing systems on activity level. Liz presented a review of the relevant research in this area. We learnt about the native pony's amazing ability to lower body temperature and heart rate to reduce their energy-use during a hard winter.

Kelly presented some of her own research recently completed using a GPS tracking device which stimulated lots of interest. We discussed what the next steps could be and how we could use this knowledge to help increase exercise levels at pasture.

## Are you thinking of breeding from your mare?

Scott Mitchell Veterinary care is now a British Equine Veterinary Associations Approved centre for Equine Artificial Insemination. This provides certified approval of the breeding services we offer. Breeding from your mare is not a decision to be undertaken lightly and we would always recommend that only mares of good conformation and temperament should be bred. Producing your own horse or pony from the sperm and egg stage can be hugely rewarding and we take great pleasure from seeing the results of our work appearing as a healthy foal.

Fertility decreases rapidly after 15 years of age and so if you are wanting to breed it is advisable to do so while they are young and their fertility is still good. Fertility is also reduced in overweight mares so try to ensure your mare is in lean to good body condition.

Breeding services are usually provided at the Hexham surgery in the stocks so mares will travel in to be scanned usually first thing in the morning—this requires transport, easy loading and availability of the driver.

We offer packages for AI on a per cycle basis—remember fertility rate is 50-60% per cycle so many mares require a second cycle to get pregnant so ensure you budget for this.

**Chilled Semen AI package per cycle £397 inc VAT.**

**Frozen Semen AI package per cycle £476.50 inc VAT**

For more information on Artificial Insemination please contact the surgery on 01434 608999.



Scott Mitchell Veterinary Care Ltd

is a BEVA Approved Practice for Artificial Insemination in 2025

David Mountford  
Chief Executive Officer,  
BEVA



British Equine Veterinary Association  
Partners with The Princess Royal



## Zone visits March and April

Zone 1 (CA8, NE44, NE46-47, NE49 & DH8) - Mon 3rd March, Mon 7th April

Zone 2 (NE19, NE45 & NE48) - Mon 10th March, Mon 14th April

Zone 3 (NE1-7, NE12-15, NE18, NE20, NE22-30 & NE61) - usually Sally - Thurs 6th March, Thurs 3rd April usually Liz Mon 17th March, Wed 23rd April

Zone 4 (NE8-11, NE16-17, NE21, NE31-43) - Mon 24th March, Mon 28th April

Zone 5 (DH2-7, DH9 & DL13-16) - Tues 25th March, Tues 29th April

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.

We are able to offer this service by mapping the most efficient route around the calls – therefore it is not possible to specify a time or vet for a zone visit. Visits must be booked by 1pm on the Friday before visit.

## Next Dental Clinic:

**Wednesday 26th March**



Dental clinics are held monthly at the surgery, usually with Euan who holds a certificate in Advanced Practice focussed on equine dentistry. 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 clinic routine dental inc. sedation £78 inc VAT**

**Dental clinic dental plus diastema flush and sedation £100 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