

Equine News: August 2023

Wounds can be a bit of a headache!

Wounds are a common occurrence in horses and early intervention in all cases is important. Make sure you regularly check your horse for wounds and always seek veterinary advice if the wound has gone full thickness through the skin.

Poor Poppy sustained a nasty head wound whilst out in the field. Steph attended and sedated her before clipping and thoroughly cleaning the area. Local anaesthetic injection was used to numb the area before the wound edges were stitched together. She was also given a pain killer injection to help with the headache.

After two weeks the stitches were removed, as you can see from the final picture her pretty head is healing nicely.

It is important that all horses are up to date with their tetanus vaccines as we never know when they may sustain a wound! Tetanus is a bacterial infection, with the bacterial spores living in the soil. Wound contaminated with soil is a likely way to contract this often-fatal disease. Tetanus boosters often get forgotten for field companions so please check yours are up to date.



Laminitis Club member talks

We are delighted to now have the dates set for the next two talks in the summer series.

Wednesday 30th August 6pm at South Farm, Colwell. Agronomist Hannah Shirt will conduct a field walk and discuss practical pasture management to assist in the prevention of laminitis. This should be an excellent insight into what goes on at soil level to impact weight gain, grazing sugar levels and laminitis risk. There will be practical tips for livery horse owners not just landowners. Applying knowledge to help manage risk is one of our strongest tools in the prevention of laminitis, so come along and learn more about pasture management. Book your place on equine@smvc.co.uk.

Tuesday 19th September 7pm at the Hexham surgery. Liz Mitchell will discuss "Insulin testing as a tool in laminitis prevention, the story so far." This will be an interactive discussion as before with lots of opportunities to ask questions and discuss personal experiences with the group.

If you are interested in joining the laminitis prevention club please get in touch, we would love to welcome new members to the group.

Rebecca puts foal nursing skills into action

Equine veterinary nurse Rebecca spent two weeks in February at Rossdales Equine Hospital in Newmarket shadowing the equine nurses in the Neonatal intensive care unit. She saw a variety of cases including foals suffering from infectious diseases and limb deformities. Rebecca gained knowledge and experience of the nursing care provided to these patients. She has been able to use lots of these new skills in caring for our own patients this Spring and Summer.



We have seen a few cases of suspected neonatal maladjustment syndrome (dummy foals) who received intensive care and treatment together with the Madigan foal squeeze technique design to apply pressure to mimic the birth process and help stimulate suck reflex and normal behaviour.

Physio tips: Stretch of the Season:

The Thoracic Lift

The Thoracic sling suspends the chest between the horse's front legs. It consists primarily of the serratus ventralis muscle and the group of pectoral muscles (transverse, ascending, descending and subclavias)



Kirsten Smith equine physiotherapist recommends getting this thoracic sling working using this simple daily exercise.

Place your hand flat where the girth goes right in the centre at the lowest part. Run your hand with the hair then against the hair slowly applying firmer pressure everytime until you see the withers raise up and the head lower. If there is no response to firm pressure try additionally using nail pressure to help produce a response.

Zone Visits August and September

Zone 1 (NE44, NE46-47, NE49 & DH8) - Wed 9th Aug, Mon 4th Sept

Zone 2 (NE19, NE45 & NE48) - Mon 10th July, Mon 7th Aug, Mon 11th Sept

Zone 3 (NE1-7, NE12-15, NE18, NE20, NE22-30 & NE61) - usually Sally - Thurs 3rd Aug, Thurs 7th Sept usually Liz/Euan Mon 14th Aug, Mon 18th Sept

Zone 4 (NE8-11, NE16-17, NE21, NE31-43) - Mon 21st Aug, Mon 25th Sept

Zone 5 (DH2-7, DH9 & DL13-16) - Tues 29th Aug, Tues 26th Sept

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.

Next Dental Clinic: Wednesday 30th August

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, for example: examination, power rasping enamel overgrowths; and diastema cleaning and flushing; all carried out under sedation.

Dental clinic routine dental including sedation £70 inc VAT

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

Dental clinic diastema flush only inc sedation £35 in 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.