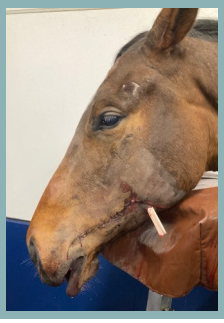
Equine News: July 2026

What a Muppet!

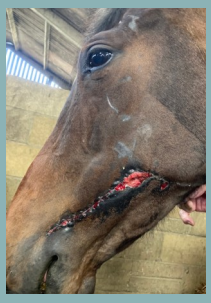
Muppet was so named as a foal as despite being utterly beautiful she was not the quickest-thinking foal. She recently showed that she continues to live up to being “a bit of a Muppet!”

It was around 7am in early June and her owner Louise had brought her and her friend to the surgery for Liz to scan for artificial insemination. During unloading Lousie turned to find Muppet had somehow managed to get caught on the partition by her lip: the blunt end having penetrated her cheek and torn her face open to expose her molar teeth. She certainly chose the right place for her accident and with some sedation we were able to unhook her lip, keeping at least that part intact.

She was moved to the examination room where, under sedation and local anaesthetic, the wound was cleaned and carefully repaired in four layers—the mucous membrane, two layers of muscle and then the skin. The mouth is obviously loaded with bacteria so getting a good seal to prevent saliva and food material infecting the wound was really important. One area at the back of the wound couldn’t be closed with stiches so a drain was placed in this area.



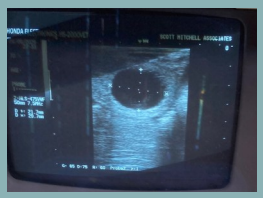
As Muppet recovered from the anaesthetic it became clear that the trauma had damaged the nerve supplying her bottom lip which was left rather floppy. Despite this she happily tucked into some haylage.

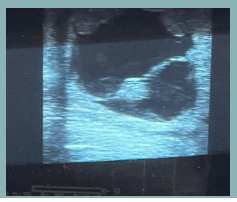


Two weeks later her stitches were removed and the wound was healing really well with just one area where the skin hadn’t yet fully healed.

Six weeks after her initial injury Muppet is doing really well—her face has healed beautifully. She still has a floppy bottom lip but we know nerve healing takes a very long time so we hope this will continue to improve over time.

The icing on the cake is she has been successfully inseminated and is in foal—we were delighted to see the heart beat of the embryo on her latest scan. Well done Muppet!





Laminitis—from the horse’s mouth

All are welcome to join this free online talk providing an overview of laminitis presented by the Laminitis Prevention Club team of Liz and Kelly Hartley.

There is a lot of misinformation on laminitis on social media. We are keen to provide evidence based opinion and advice on the causes, treatment and prevention of laminitis.

Join our online meeting and find out more. You can join using the following link:

https://teams.live.com/meet/9328367017832?p=ZddTC3CtXkOWev2Vqp

Welcome to Stuart!

We're pleased to welcome our newest equine vet to our team: Stuart Rendall BVMS MRCVS. Stuart has a range of experience in all aspects of equine veterinary medicine. He enjoys the variety of ambulatory equine work but particularly enjoys treating lameness and poor performance cases where he finds helping horses perform at their best extremely rewarding. Stuart grew up in the Scottish Borders and graduated from the University of Glasgow in 2020. Since then he has worked in Oxfordshire, the Borders and the North of England. Stuart is currently in the process of renovating his new home. In his spare time he enjoys cycling, hiking and skiing. If you'd like Stuart to take a look at your horse or pony please give us a call on our usual number: 01434 608999.

Zone visits July and August

Zone 1A (CA8, NE46-47, NE49) Zone 1B (NE44, DH8) - Mon 6th July, Mon 3rd Aug

Zone 2 (NE19, NE45 & NE48) - Mon 13th July, Mon 10th Aug

Zone 3 (NE1-7, NE12-15, NE18, NE20, NE22-30 & NE61) - usually Sally - Thurs 2nd July, Thurs 6th Aug usually Liz—Mon 20th July, Mon 17th Aug

Zone 4 (NE8-11, NE16-17, NE21, NE31-43- Mon 27th July, Mon 24th Aug

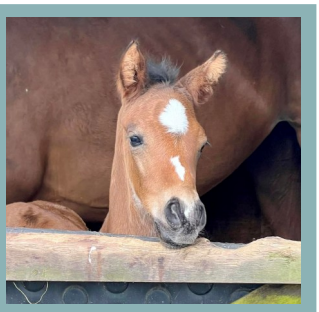
Zone 5 (DH1-7, DH9) - Tues 21st July, Tues 18th Aug

Zone 6 (DL 12-16) - Tues 28th July, Tues 25th Aug

Zone visits offer a reduced price visit of £24 for one owner and £12 for more than one owner at same yard for planned routine veterinary work.

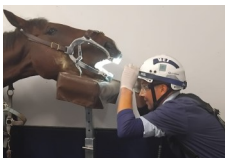
We are able to offer this service by mapping the most efficient route around the calls – therefore it is not possible to specify a time or vet for a zone visit. Appointments must be booked by 1pm on the Friday before visit.

Fun foal facts



- The gestation period for a mare is very variable and can range from 320 days to 370 days– that could mean over a year of pregnancy! The average is around 340 days.
- Birth usually takes place in the early hours of the morning and takes place very rapidly—often 15-20 minutes. In the wild, this would have been to avoid being vulnerable to predators!
- Foals can stand within 2 hours of birth and gallop within 24 hours.
- Foals grow rapidly in the first year of life and can reach almost 90% of their adult height in the first year. Their legs grow the least—when they are born they are around 80% of the length they will be as adult.

Next Dental Clinic: Wed 26th August



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.

Scott Mitchell Veterinary Care Ltd.
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29 High Street, Tow Law, DL13 4DH **01388 731911**
www.smvc.co.uk