

Equine News: May 2022



**Do you know your horse's normal rectal temperature?
Could you spot fever and be a step ahead of an outbreak?**

Take the SAW Temperature Checking Challenge and really get to know your horse!

Take your horse's resting temperature every day for a week, so you can get to know what's normal for your horse.

You can check your horse's average resting temperature using the Temperature Checker on the Redwings website and be entered into a 'bum'per prize draw!

Data collected in the tracker will be used to investigate the normal temperature range in horses.

With your new skill, you can get into the habit of checking temperature on returning from an event, or when you're concerned about your horse's health. You'll then be able to spot a fever which could signal a range of health concerns including strangles, other infectious diseases, inflammation and rarer conditions.

Why is knowing my horse's temperature important?

Spotting fever can be the difference between one horse or many!

Tests from 109 young horses with strangles showed that 108 of them developed fever (raised temperature) *before* abscesses in the lymph nodes burst.

Fever is part of a horse's initial immune response to infection and commonly the first sign of strangles, but the most significant amounts of *Strep. equi* bacteria are only released into the environment once lymph node abscesses burst which is normally 2– 16 days later. The rupture of abscesses is usually indicated by the production of copious amounts of nasal mucus and pus.

So if you know your horse's normal resting rectal temperature and spot a spike (such as when you return after an event), you can take action before your horse becomes highly infectious.

Make sure you have a thermometer and know how to use it. **For the month of May we can supply one for the special price of £5.**

Strangles : The facts

Strangles is an extremely contagious upper respiratory tract infection.

It is the most common infectious disease in the UK and worldwide.

Strangles is caused by a bacteria called *Streptococcus equi*, not a virus.

It can take up to 21 days for a newly infected horse to show signs of illness.

The earliest signs of strangles are usually fever (a resting temperature above 38.5C and being off-colour).

As the disease progresses it can cause: thick nasal discharge, swollen lymph nodes and abscesses, trouble swallowing and loss of appetite, difficulty breathing (hence the name 'strangles'), cough and dullness/ depression.

Some horses only show mild signs of disease, such as slight nasal discharge or briefly raised temperature and loss of appetite.

Strangles is spread via direct contact or via shared equipment, staff or water troughs.

Following disease some horses become carriers and can intermittently shed bacteria and infect other horses.

Strangles Prevention: 10 Point Plan

1. Know the signs of Strangles
2. Immediately isolate any horse with a raised temperature
3. Have a good yard biosecurity plan in place
4. Quarantine new horses for 3 weeks on arrival and test prior to moving out of quarantine
5. Fully investigate any cases of strangles to find the source which could be a silent carrier
6. Do not travel with horses from another yard
7. Do not allow nose to nose contact when away from the yard
8. Do not allow your horse to drink from shared water sources
9. Know your horse's normal temperature
10. Perform daily temperature checks on horses returning from competitions



Rebecca is shortlisted for local award!

Rebecca Dent our equine student veterinary nurse has been short listed for the Hexham Rotary Young employee of the Year. Rebecca has been with the practice for 3 years and has worked incredibly hard balancing busy days in the clinic with studying for her nursing exams. She is super organised and keeps us all on track, quite a feat considering she is only 21!

We are crossing our fingers for her for the awards ceremony later this month.



Like mother like daughter!

Colin was taken by how like her mother this new born foal "Mischief" looked.



Next Dental Clinic: Thursday 30th June

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 (a saving of £27.50 on the usual price of a routine dental).



Dental clinics are for routine dental procedures, including examination, power rasping enamel overgrowths, and diastema cleaning and flushing all carried out under sedation.

Dental clinic routine dental including sedation £70 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

Zone Visits May and June

Zone 1 (NE44, NE46-47, NE49 & DH8) - Mon 9th May, Mon 6th June

Zone 2 (NE19, NE45 & NE48) - Mon 16th May, Mon 13th June

Zone 3 (NE1-7, NE12-15, NE18, NE20, NE22-30 & NE61) - Sally -Thurs 5th May Liz/Euan Mon 23rd May, Mon 20th June

Zone 4 (NE8-11, NE16-17, NE21, NE31-43) - Mon 30th May, Mon 27th June

Zone 5 (DH2-7, DH9 & DL13-16) - Tues 31st May, Tues 28th June

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.

Practice News

Jubilee opening hours

The surgery will be open for emergencies only on Thursday 2nd and Friday 3rd June.

Changes to zone day booking

A lot of planning goes in to making the zone days run smoothly we therefore ask that all visits are booked in by 1pm on the Friday before the visit to allow the vets time to plan their routes.

6 monthly Flu vaccination

If your horse is permanently on six monthly boosters for flu vaccination you now have the option to have a reminder at six months. Please ask at the time of vaccination.

Instagram

We are now on Instagram!

Find us at [scottmitchellvets.equine](https://www.scottmitchellvets.equine)

Scott Mitchell Veterinary Care Ltd.

Tyne Green, Hexham, NE46 3SG 01434 608999
29 High Street, Tow Law, DL13 4DH 01388 731911

www.smvc.co.uk

**SCOTT
MITCHELL**
VETERINARY CARE



RCVS
ACCREDITED
PRACTICE