

Equine News: October 2021

Don't forget to look after your old friend this autumn and release their inner youth!



Old friends Autumn watch for October and November 2021, open to all horses over 15 years old:

- Twice annual visit & health check (Autumn and Spring)
- Full standard blood profile
- Gold standard dental including sedation
- 10% off vaccination and selected long term medication
- Annual worming plan including egg counts and reminders (excluding winter and tape-worm treatment)

All this for just £180! (better than half price!)

Terms and conditions: Annual membership fee or renewal must be paid in full prior to Autumn Watch visit. The discount on long term medications applies to selected pharmaceutical products only; please ask for details. Discounts on vaccination and long term medication apply for 12 months.

Autumn Client Evening: Date for your diary

We have asked and listened to people's opinions and the consensus was that most people would like to have a face to face client evening with preventative COVID measures in place.

We therefore propose to hold a client meeting:

**Thursday 25th November 2021 at 7-8.30pm
Hexham Auction Mart Function Suite**

Tea, Coffee and biscuits will be provided .

Seating will be distanced and the area well ventilated so wear warm clothes.

Our vets will provide presentation of cases and an open question and answer session. You can submit your questions in advance to equine@smvc.co.uk.

Open to all clients and their friends and family.

Please phone the surgery on 01434 608999 to reserve your place.

If you would have liked to attend but do not feel comfortable with a face to face meeting please let us know. If there is sufficient interest we will look at creating a live zoom link.

We will continue to monitor local risk factors and may need to change our plans accordingly.

Cushings disease ACTH testing

October is the most sensitive time to test for Cushings and we recommend testing if your horse or pony has had an episode of laminitis or has coat or body shape changes.

If it is the first time we are testing your horse or pony then we can claim for free of charge laboratory fees.

(Routine visit, examination and blood sampling fees apply.)

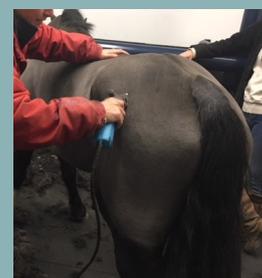
Phone the surgery to make an appointment.



Clipping clinics.... It's that time of year again!!

Be safe clipping. If your horse is difficult to clip why not take advantage of our clipping clinics. Bring your horse and clippers to the surgery and we will sedate your horse in one of the outdoor stables with top ups as required and you **pay only for the cost of sedation (electricity, use of a stable and clinical time are all FREE).**

Please help by sweeping up after yourselves.



Equine Arthritis—what is it and how to recognise it

Most people and animals find symptoms of arthritis are worse during the winter months so now is a good time to consider if your horse could be suffering from arthritis and how best to manage it.

What exactly is arthritis?

Arthritis means the inflammation of joints between bones. It is a degenerative joint disease that can occur in horses of any age. This can eventually result in pain, lameness and reduced performance of your horse if left untreated. Sadly there is no cure, but early diagnosis is key to improving the long term prognosis.

This is why we are committed to starting the conversation about Arthritis at the first signs of the disease. We can help by discussing all aspects of prevention through to treatment options, to ensure the most effective outcome for your horse.

What are the symptoms I should look out for?

- Behavioural change e.g not wanting to jump.
- Stumbling and tripping.
- Abnormal shoe wear.
- increased time to warm up.
- Decreased performance.
- Warm, stiff, swollen or painful joints.
- Lameness.

How can Arthritis be managed?

Treatment is dependent on the condition of the affected joint, treatment will generally involve a period of rest followed by an increasing exercise regime. Alongside this, there may be a requirement for anti inflammatory pain relief and anti inflammatory injections, medication or potentially other biological treatments.

Further treatment options may also be prescribed, dependent on your horses needs and how they have responded. Your vet may also recommend a variety of methods to help manage the disease including changes to diet, exercise and shoeing, or joint supplements.

Prognosis will be dependent on the severity of the damage to the joint and the response to medication. Quite often, with the support of your vet and a suitable treatment plan, which may include a balanced exercise regime, medication and rest, it will be possible to get the horse back to the same or a lower level of exercise.

Although not curable, through early diagnosis, prognosis is improved.

Zone Visits October and November

Zone 1 (NE44, NE46-47, NE49 & DH8) - Mon 4th Oct, Mon 1st Nov

Zone 2 (NE19, NE45 & NE48) - Mon 11th Oct, Mon 8th Nov

Zone 3 (NE1-7, NE12-15, NE18, NE20, NE22-30 & NE61) - Sally -Thurs 7th Oct , Thurs 4th Nov Liz/Steph Mon 18th Oct, Mon 15th Nov

Zone 4 (NE8-11, NE16-17, NE21, NE31-43) - Mon 25th Oct, Mon 22nd Nov

Zone 5 (DH2-7, DH9 & DL13-16) - Tues 26th Oct, Tues 23rd Nov

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.

Equine Arthritis
A Joint Approach

60% OF LAMENESS IS CAUSED BY ARTHRITIS

THE MOST COMMON HEALTH PROBLEM AFFECTING HORSES
No.1 ARTHRITIS

Your vet can help SUPPORT YOU with advice on all aspects of Equine Arthritis:

Equine Arthritis can occur in horses of all ages - why?

Up to 2 YEARS	2-5 YEARS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developmental joint disease Poor conformation Over rapid growth and incorrect diet Previous injury or joint infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over exertion at an early age Breeds mature at different ages Injuries Poor foot balance Untreated developmental joint disease

Middle Age 5-15 YEARS

- Obesity
- Inappropriate work load
- Poor foot balance

Senior 15+ YEARS

- Ignoring the early signs
- Undiagnosed arthritis being treated as an alternative injury
- Excessive repetitive work
- Obesity

Which joints are most commonly affected by Arthritis?

Low motion joints: Carpus (knees), Pastern, Coffin

High motion joints: Large Hock, Small Hock, Stifle, Fetlock

How does Arthritis affect my horse's joints?

Healthy Joint: Ligament, Cartilage, Synovium, Synovial fluid

Damaged Joint: Destruction of Cartilage, Synovial inflammation, Ligament loosening

Does age matter?
Osteoarthritis (OA) can develop at any age. Older horses are usually more affected with Primary OA as the cartilage cells can not repair themselves as well as they used to. Secondary OA resulting from injury, sepsis or developmental joint disease can occur at any age.

Treatment Options:

- Identify and address the likely causes
- Medication
- Surgery
- Medical management
- Foot balance and shoeing
- Nutrition and Neurochemicals (joint supplements)
- Management

Managing Arthritis in your horse

Old Injuries, Riding Surface, Nutrition, Foot Care and Traction, Manage their Weight, Training and Exercise

ASK THE VET MYTH BUSTER

Equine

For more information visit www.ajointapproach.co.uk

[Arth] Joint + [itis] Inflammation = Joint Inflammation

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