



BUSY SPRING

What a busy start to Spring! The Equine team has been busier than ever over the past couple of months – we are seeing quite a few new faces and are looking forward to getting to know our new clients a bit better. Our days will be particularly busy over the next few weeks, as poor Katherine Murray had a tumble out cycling and has broken her collar bone! She will also soon be leaving us to take on an Internship position in Newmarket – we are missing her sooner than we expected! We are looking forward to welcoming back Caroline Hughes for a month in August and will also welcome a new face in the shape of Lizzie Royce who will join us as a permanent vet in August!

GASTROSCOPE

We have recently purchased a new gastroscope, and are able to perform gastroscopic examinations in clinic on a day patient basis.

Gastrosopy is the only reliable way to diagnose or rule out stomach ulcers. Stomach ulcers can be a cause of poor performance, unwanted behaviour under saddle or other behaviour problems. The symptoms can be very non-specific – if you think your horse might have ulcers please call us to discuss your case with one of the Equine vets.

We are planning a client evening on the linked subjects of stomach ulcers and equine behaviour in the next few months – look out for updates!

VACCINES

Please note that although we try our best to give our clients a courtesy call as a reminder to book in for vaccinations, it is the responsibility of the owner to make sure they are booked in and given in time.

Booster vaccinations must be given within one calendar year (365 days – ignore leap years!) of the previous vaccination. For a primary course of vaccinations, the first two injections should be given 4-6 weeks apart. The third vaccination is given 5-7 calendar months after the second.

If you have any queries about your horse's vaccination due date, please call the Equine team on 01608 730085 and have the horse's passport handy!

LIFELONG LEARNING

Last month we hosted another meeting for farriers and vets, discussing farriery from a biomechanical perspective. Professor Andrew Parks from the University of Georgia very kindly gave talks to a group of twenty farriers and vets and led a practical session demonstrating the use of wooden clogs in therapeutic farriery. There was an impromptu reunion before the meeting – it turns out that Prof Parks went to vet school with retired Partner Alan Walker and Farm Partner Steve Glanvill. Just goes to show it's a small world!



LAMINITIS

We are seeing an awful lot of cases of Laminitis at the moment! The sudden increase in grass growth after the slow, cold start to spring has caught a lot of people out. Laminitis is caused by blood insulin levels staying abnormally high over a long period of time. Insulin levels are affected by a number of different factors, including the energy level in the diet, genetics, Equine Cushing's Syndrome and Metabolic Syndrome. Keeping your horse slim and fit can greatly reduce the risk of developing Laminitis. Even very mild Laminitis episodes ('looking a bit footy') can over time result in serious, irreversible changes inside the feet, which can be very hard to correct. Prevention is absolutely better than cure!

TAPEWORM TESTING

We have some bad news - very soon the tapeworm-only wormer Equitape® will cease to be manufactured - meaning we will need to prescribe combination wormers to address any tapeworm burden.

But we also have some very good news! A simple, non-invasive test for tapeworm exposure has been developed, so we can now test much more easily to see whether or not your horse needs worming for tapeworms. A scientific study into the use of the test showed that using it can reduce the use of anti-tapeworm drugs by up to 86%. Next year we plan to integrate the test into our annual worming packages; it will also be available outside our worming packages, just like faecal worm egg counts to check for Strongyles.

WORMING PROGRAMME

We are still running our Annual Worming Package, where for £65* you receive all the wormers, worm egg count pots and advice you should need for 1 horse in a well-managed pasture for 1 year. Contact reception if you would like more information. (*NB additional wormers, if required, are at an additional cost)

Sally Hodgson has been appointed as Team Vet for the British Youth and Junior Carriage Driving Team for their World Championships in Hungary this August! Sally will be catching up with the team at the Sandringham National event at the end of June, and at team training sessions before they all travel to Hungary together.

Photo courtesy of Sara Jane Hayes.



E-MAILED INVOICES AND NEWSLETTERS

For clients who receive their invoices by e-mail (rather than post), it is regrettably no longer possible to attach our Newsletters at the same time. However, these are always available to read and download within a few days of the 1st of the month, by visiting our website www.hooknortonvets.co.uk and going to the 'Info Sheets and Guides' of whichever Department's Newsletter you wish to view. Past Newsletters are also there for reference.

Any clients who would prefer to have their invoices e-mailed (who currently receive them by post) should request this by e-mailing our Accounts Department at: accounts@hooknortonvets.co.uk to make a written request. Our aim eventually is for all clients to receive their invoices by e-mail.

GDPR CHANGES

Due to new General Data Protection Regulation changes that took place on the 25th of May 2018, we will need your permission to provide you with vaccine, wormer and general healthcare reminders & newsletters. In order for us to do this we need your permission to contact you via selected third parties. Please contact the Surgery to do this or for more information, if you haven't already done so.

