



EQUINE NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2018

T:01608 730085 E:equine@hooknortonvets.co.uk www.hooknortonvets.co.uk

DATES FOR THE DIARY

COUNTRYFILE LIVE, 2nd – 5th August

We will be attending Countryfile Live again this year as the Duty Vets for the farm animals at the show. If you are attending, feel free to drop by and say hello, we will have a stand near Adam’s Farm!

MORETON SHOW, 1ST SEPTEMBER

WINTER TALK SERIES

Our Winter Talk Series will soon be upon us – watch this space! We will be including an evening on gastric ulcers and equine behaviour – Our new gastroscope gives high quality HD images allowing us to diagnose gastric ulcers in your horse and treat them accordingly. If you would like any more information about gastric ulcers please call the Practice and speak to one of our vets.

CASE OF THE MONTH - FERGAL

Fergal is a lovely gentle giant, unfortunately he has suffered from ‘Equine Recurrent Uveitis’ and recurring corneal ulcers over the past 2 years. In February this year Fergal ended up with very nasty corneal ulcer with a mixed fungal and bacterial infection on the surface of the eye which prevented the ulcer from healing.

His owner Alison worked extremely hard over the course of several weeks treating the eye with various antibiotic ointments, antifungals and serum from Fergal’s own blood in an attempt to allow the ulcer to heal. Fergal was fitted with a ‘sub-palpebral lavage system’ allowing us to treat the eye without having to open it which was less painful for Fergal. Alison was dedicated to saving Fergal’s eye, at one point applying medication every 2 hours even through the night for several days in a row. Despite the effort, hard work and dedication Fergal’s pain was uncontrollable and the prognosis for regaining normal function in his eye was very poor. Fergal was referred to a specialist ophthalmology hospital and had his eye removed. The specialist hospital removed the eye but left the eyelids and eyelashes in place allowing for increased sensory function and a better cosmetic effect.

Fergal bounced back very quickly and is now a happy chap once again! Alison was invested in his recovery and from the first day after surgery treated him like a normal horse. Within a matter of months he was back out competing! Fergal came 5th in an in-hand class at his first show after his operation. He has also taken to ridden showing and is competing in his first jumping competition for the riding club at the end of July. Well done Alison and Fergal!

INVOICES

Our eventual aim is to email the majority of the invoices we currently post. Any clients who would prefer to have their invoices e-mailed should request this by e-mailing our Accounts Department at: accounts@hooknortonvets.co.uk to make a written request.



WHAT 'WONDERFUL' WEATHER!!



In the winter we were fed up of the snow and now we're fed up of this never-ending heatwave which has come with its own problems.

HEAT STROKE - Reduce the chance of heat stroke - provide your horse with a constant supply of clean, fresh water. Your horse needs an area of shade throughout the day if turned out or may need to be stabled during the day if no shade is available.

SUN BURN - Horses with white pigment on their face or legs will be susceptible to sunburn so don't forget to put their sunscreen on!! Horses with underlying liver disease suffer from photosensitisation so will be particularly susceptible to sunburn.

LAMENESS - Take care when exercising your horse on the hard ground – minimise fast work and jumping unless you are on a surface such as gallops or a menage. Problems such as bruised soles and aggravation of arthritis have become a common call lately!

COUGH - We are now well into harvest season which is drier and dustier this year. Horses with RAO (equine asthma) may suffer more at this time of year if they are allergic to dust and pollen.

EYES - The flies are particularly problematic at this time of year and as well as being extremely annoying for you and your horse they also often cause eye problems.

CONJUNCTIVIS – spread by flies and direct contact between horses. Main clinical signs are a yellow discharge and inflamed (reddened) conjunctiva, your horse may also rub their eyes and appear sore.

EYE ULCERS – rubbing faces on fence posts and hedges trying to avoid the flies; in doing so they can scratch the surface of their eye and form corneal ulcers. These are very painful and can become quite nasty. Clinical signs include: painful eye, avoiding light, clear discharge, swollen eyelids.

UVEITIS – inflammation inside the eye, lots of causes but is aggravated by bright sunlight and irritation from flies etc. It is a very painful condition and can eventually lead to blindness. Well fitted fly masks and adequate shade can reduce sunlight glare.

NEWS

Some of you may have already seen the new signage at our Hook Norton, Charlbury & Deddington Surgeries, it is all looking very smart!

Most of you will remember Verity from Large Animal Reception. She is now back from maternity leave in a new role as Marketing Assistant – we are glad to have her back!!

Our equine vet Katherine had her last day on 27th July. She starts at her new job at Rossdales in Newmarket at the beginning of August. We wish her the best of luck and hope to see her back here in the future!

Lizzie Royce will be starting on 6th August – we are looking forward to her joining the team! Lizzie has graduated from Bristol Vet School and recently spent some time at Donnington Grove gaining some experience of studwork, foal work and colic surgery. Outside of work Lizzie spends her time eventing her horses, one of which is a 4 year old, that is currently keeping her busy! She has a little Jack Russel terrier called Jack, she also enjoys playing tennis and running. Please welcome her with a smile and be ready to give her directions as she is new to the area!!

We are currently in the process of appointing a new equine nursing assistant and equine yard hand to work in our ever expanding clinic. We are still on the look out for another experienced equine vet to join our busy team!