

HN VG

Hook Norton Veterinary Group



**THIS MONTH'S NEWSLETTER HAS
BEEN WRITTEN BY BEKY, ENJOY!**

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A WORKSHOP WITH OUR EQUINE VETS

A PRACTICAL APPROACH TO LAMENESS

When: 22nd June

Time: 2 pm - 5 pm

Where: Hook Norton Clinic, OX15 5DF

Join us for an afternoon of practical workshops with all the Equine Team, using live horses and dissection to assess lameness in horses in all its forms. Numbers are strictly limited to 32 people so that we can split off into 4 smaller groups.

- Trotting up - a vet's eye view
- Dissection of the horse's leg
- Practical Bandaging
- X-rays - the good, the bad and the ugly

We will finish the afternoon with a Q&A, tea and cake.

£10 per person, to be paid when booking;
all proceeds go to the Blue Cross.



Book now to reserve your place!

T: 01608 730085



Gastroscope Clinic 16th June

Is your horse showing any of these signs?

- > poor performance
- > negative changes in attitude
- > abdominal discomfort/girthiness
- > grumpiness
- > poor coat
- > poor appetite
- > low-grade colic symptoms

The only way to diagnose if an ulcer is present is via gastroscopy.

What is Gastroscopy?

A gastroscope is used to diagnose gastric ulcers, and it involves passing a long (very flexible!) tube with a camera at the end down the horse's oesophagus and into the stomach; allowing the vet to get a clear view of the stomach lining to see if and what type of ulcers may be present.



Gastroscope clinic offer of only £120, for scope, sedation, and a veterinary report (if your horse is starved at home), for all scopes carried out on the 16th of June. If you would like to bring your horse in the night before to be starved in the clinic, there is an additional £30 charge.

We can also offer a **discounted lameness examination of £50**. Examining the horse as a whole is important because many horses with gastric ulcers have an underlying stress factor such as mild lameness. Your vet will assess your horse at walk and trot on a straight line, perform flexion tests and also assess them at trot on a hard circle.

If you're not sure if your horse is showing signs of Gastric Ulcers, feel free to contact us and speak to one of the equine vets.

In short:

Gastroscope clinic on 16th June, £120 per horse

added extras (as requested by the client)

- *stabled and starved over night at HNVG £30*
- *discounted lameness examination £50*

Limited spaces are available, contact us now to book your spot.

T: 01608 730085 or

E: equine@hooknortonvets.co.uk

This offer is only available on the 16th of June. The lameness examination has been discounted for the gastroscopy clinic and only applies if your horse has the gastroscopy procedure. If your horse has ulcers and requires medication, you can purchase the medication via HNVG or purchase a written prescription from us to buy the drugs online. All prices stated include VAT.



WEIGHT MANAGEMENT

Top Tips

We've made it out of winter and laminitis cases are rising. So, it's time to think about how best to keep the weight off our greedy horses! Of course, just as in humans, the best way to shift some excess pounds is to ensure the energy in is less than the energy out. So here are some top tips to try and avoid an ever-expanding waistline in our four hooved companions!

- Restrict the amount of grazing. This is easier said than done, but there are many ways to help reduce grass intake.

a. Strip grazing is an excellent way to reduce the amount of grass your horse is eating daily, as you can control feed intake. Make sure you follow your strip with a chaser fence to ensure your paddock isn't getting larger by the day. Remember, even on your bald paddock, the grass is still growing; you may not notice as your pony is eating it daily!!

b. Muzzles are great if strip grazing isn't an option, as they can reduce grass intake by up to 80%. Muzzles can be worn for up to 8 hours; please ensure they are well fitted. Just be aware that if your pony is out 24/7, they can become greedy and will easily eat their daily calories in 3 hours if left without a muzzle!



- Increase the amount of exercise – This is a great option even for our unriden companions.
 - a. Go for longer hacks** (check out your ordinance survey maps for local bridleways and spend some days off work exploring your local area, or even better, box up and discover somewhere new!).
 - b. Add in a little bit of hill work.** As we all know, walking up a hill is tougher than walking on the flat, even adding some hills in walk is a great way of increasing energy expenditure!
 - c. Look out for your local gallops if you fancy something faster paced.** There are some super gallops locally, and many are available to hire at a reasonable rate.
 - d. And for your companion ponies, take them for a nice walk in-hand.** The added exercise will help both their waistline and mental wellbeing immensely!
- Tools for assessing weight loss or gain
 - a. A weigh tape** is a helpful tool to assess weight loss. Although not hugely accurate, it allows you to see if the number is going up or down! Clip a small stripe (1 inch long) under where your saddle goes near the wither so you can measure in the same place every week
 - b. A weighbridge.** These are extremely useful. The one at Hook Norton is available for clients to use if you book in advance!



5:30 am – The alarm goes off and I pretend it hasn't! I hit snooze for another 10 minutes before finally admitting defeat and heading straight for the coffee machine! As per usual, the dogs barely notice my existence until the food bowl appears!

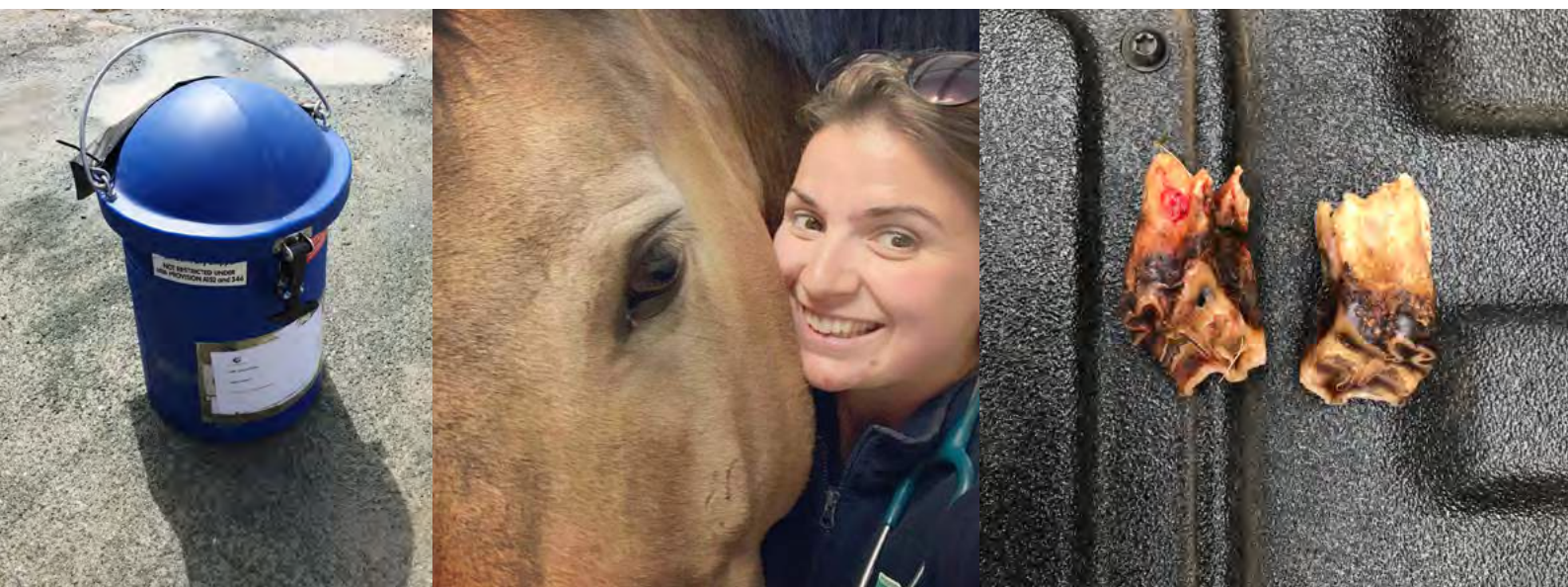
6 am – Arrive at the yard. Thankfully, the horses are out 24/7, so a quick check and poo pick of the paddock whilst letting the dogs exercise themselves in the field! Both horses are bright and happy with all shoes accounted for.

7:30 am – Swing into the house to grab toast and another coffee on route to the practice.

8 am – Arrive at Hook Norton and check the inpatients. It's not too busy in the clinic this morning, so there are only a couple of patients to check on. The Stud Vets have already taken an AI mare down to stocks and are eagerly scanning to check whether she is ready to be inseminated!

8:30 am – Check in with reception to check that there haven't been any last-minute diary changes and head out on the road for the first visits of the day. Today, the morning consists of routine visits; a sedation for one of our local farriers, followed by some foot balance x-rays for a Healthy Horse Club member and a few vaccinations.

11 am – Whilst heading back to Hook Norton, the clinic calls to say there is a colic that needs seeing, and the diary suggests I'm the nearest vet. So, after working out logistics for my later calls, I head straight off to the colic. Thankfully on arrival, the colic is mild and following a swift examination, it is determined that the horse seems to be suffering from a touch of spasmodic colic. Hopefully, some phenylbutazone (bute), antispasmodic colic drugs and some oral fluids will help him feel better in no time!



1 pm – Head back into the clinic via a café to grab lunch. Occasionally I'm organised enough to pack a lunch, but today is not that day!

1:30 pm – Plan tomorrow's Zone Visits and catch up on paperwork and lab results. I call owners with various results and discuss treatment plans going forwards for some cases. I also call the owner of the horse that was colicing. It's good news; the horse is doing well and has no further colic signs.

2:30 pm – Head out to catch up on some of the earlier rearranged visits. Thankfully, today's owners have been understanding about the emergency visit and have managed to rearrange their days to fit. So the afternoon consists of a couple of dentals, a weepy eye and a post-op check. All of which go well, and I even get a cup of tea between dentals!

5:30 pm – Check back in at the clinic. I phone owners that I have missed during the day, check my morning diary, and hand over my cases to the on-call vet for the evening.

6:30 pm – Arrive back at the yard. Still 4 shoes on!! I decide to go in the school with the Thoroughbred this evening, and for once, he wants to play ball. He doesn't feel like a ticking time bomb, and I get some really nice work from him!

8:30 pm – Home for dinner and a glass of wine. I attempt to watch a series on tv but fail miserably, watching only the first 10 minutes before falling asleep on the sofa!

In the summer, with late emergencies and longer daylight hours, its' not unusual to be home late – thankfully, it's a labour of love!

