



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

New Ovacyte Worm Egg Counting Machine

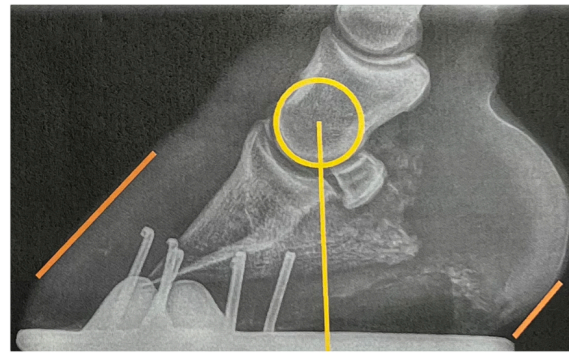


The practice has invested in a state-of-the-art worm egg counting machine which can identify the species of worm present as well as giving a very precise reading of the eggs per gram present in the faecal sample. This automated process is significantly more precise than the previous method of manually counting and is available for one-off worm egg counts or as part of **our worming scheme**.

Worm egg counting is recommended and now common practice for most horse owners instead of 'blanket worming' or worming periodically. It often results in financial benefits, as money is saved by not using wormers, as well as the long term benefits of not causing wormer resistance problems.



Wensum Valley Vets



Hoof Balance

Horses' hooves are made up of lots of tiny tubes (called horn tubules) that, when bundled together tightly, form the strong capsule around a similarly shaped pedal bone inside. The pedal bone joins to the rest of the skeleton via the coffin joint, which is within the hoof wall.

So what is hoof balance?

Hoof balance is the combination of adequate size, shape and symmetry of the hoof in a way that maximises its mechanical efficiency and reduced injury risk. When a foot is balanced it should land flat on the ground at rest and the heel and the toe should land almost simultaneously or with the toe just slightly after the heel during walk and trot. The hoof should also be symmetrical when looked at from the front, and when viewed from the side the hoof wall and the heel should be parallel.

Horses' hooves are continually growing, and their modern domesticated lives do not provide enough wear to manage their length or shape the hoof into a balanced form, this is why regular farriery is so important to equine health!

Why is hoof balance important?

How the foot lands on the ground during movement determines the majority of the movement of the horse's leg thereafter. An imbalanced



Worming Scheme:

Our worming scheme offers fantastic value, for only £60 per year, you will receive:

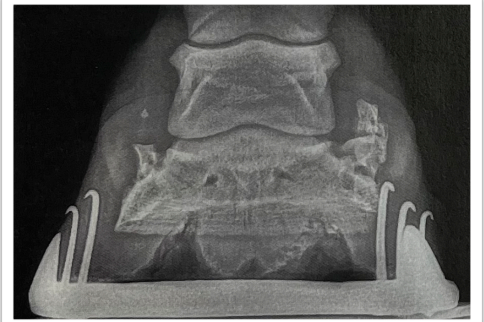
- 4 worm egg counts
- 1 tapeworm saliva test
- 10% discount on any wormers required
- 1 faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)
- Unlimited worming advice

Please speak to your vet at their next visit or call our office on 01328 86444 if you are interested in joining.

foot can lead to abnormal loading of ligaments, tendons and joints and consequently contributes to lameness. Not all imbalances lead to immediate problems, but the longer the foot is left without the correct balance the higher the chances of associated lameness developing.

How is hoof balance assessed?

Some aspects of hoof balance can be assessed with the naked-eye, as done at regular farriery visits. This may involve looking at the hoof whilst weight bearing and whilst lifted, as well as during walk or trot. However some aspects of hoof balance cannot be seen without radiographing ("X-raying") the foot, to assess how the hoof capsule relates to the boney structures within it, an example of this would be the Hoof Pastern Axis. To fully assess hoof balance two radiographs ("X-rays") of each foot are needed, one from the front and one from the side.



What is the Hoof-pastern-axis?

The Hoof-pastern-axis (HPA) is the imaginary line that goes from the toe to the dorsal hoof wall and along the pastern to the fetlock joint, this line should be straight. The HPA is sometimes described as "broken back" or "broken forward" meaning the line is no longer straight, which once identified can be corrected by consistent trimming or may need remedial shoeing.

Package Offer

As you have read, foot balance and farriery play a key role in maintaining your horse's soundness. Because of this, we are working with farriers to ensure that we, as a team, optimise your horse's shoeing by performing radiography of the feet and assessing what the eye can't see.

Our NEW 'Foot Balance' package includes:

- An assessment of your horse's gait and footfall (Soundness Exam) at the clinic
- Eight radiographs ("X-rays") - Two of each foot, from the front and side
- Sedation as required
- A verbal report, followed by a written report for you and your farrier
- A further 20% reduction in price if follow up required within 18 months
- For the price of £180 (inc VAT)

To discuss this with a vet or to book in, please give us a call on 01328 864444

Good foot balance is known to reduce the incidence of lameness in horses and we believe in working with your farrier to achieve the best result possible!

