



Wensum Valley
Veterinary Surgeons

Newsletter

August 2022



Our weigh scales...

We have had a set of weigh scales at the clinic for the past 5 years. We do not charge for their use so feel free to give us a call and bring your horse or pony over. Estimates by eye and even with a weigh tape are notoriously inaccurate. It is not uncommon for these figures to be up to a third out either way.

There is a clinical aspect to horse weight where we are managing overweight horses and ponies with a laminitis potential or where we are dealing with loss of condition. Scales allow us to monitor outcomes of treatment or management changes very accurately. We also use them where dosing by weight is important such as with corticosteroid use.

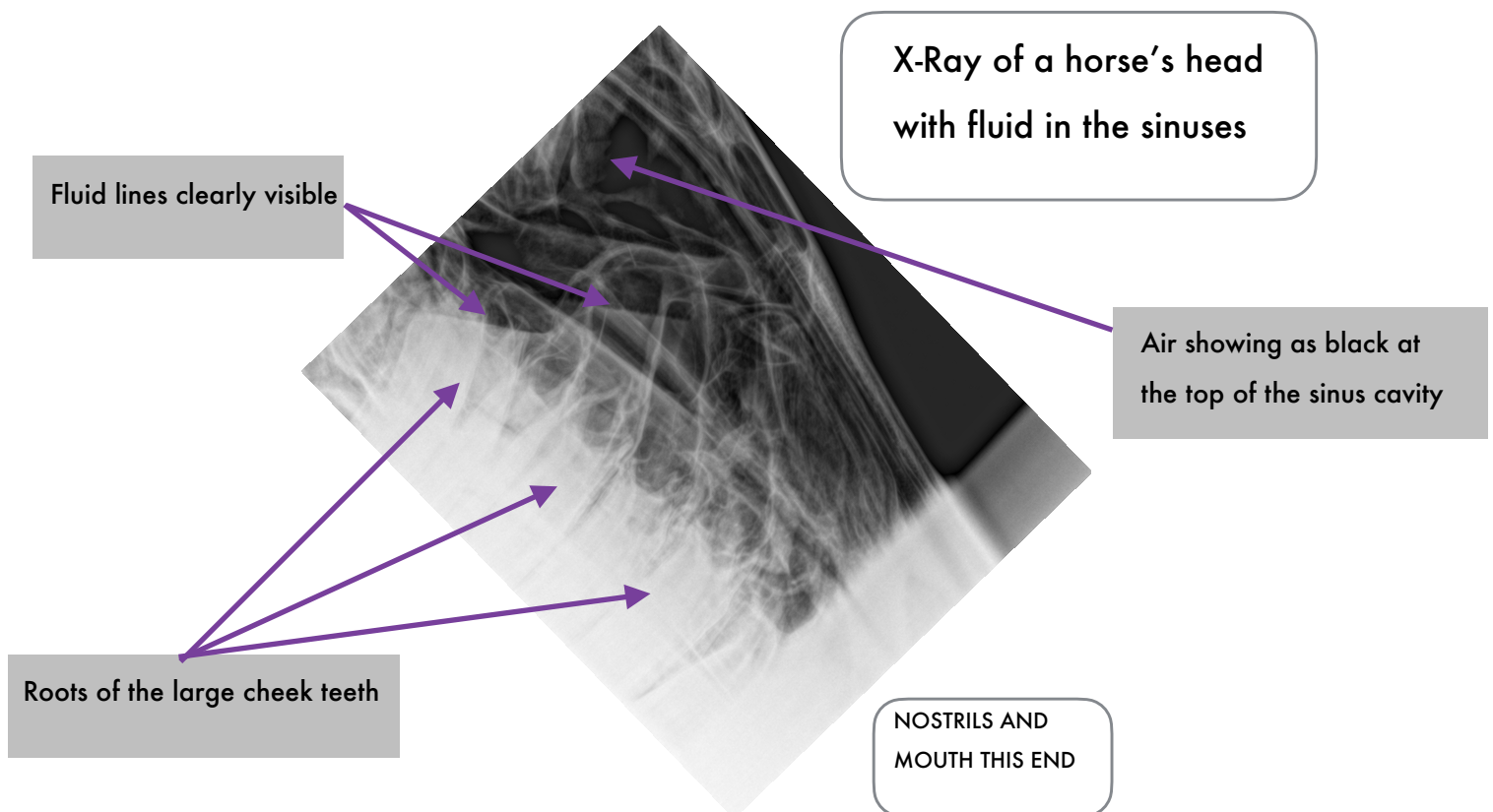
There are several studies too, looking at rider weight to horse weight ratios and establishing upper limits. Of course, if you want to, you can also weigh yourself (we won't look !!!)

What is Sinusitis?

Sinusitis is an infection of the sinuses. These are air-filled cavities which make up a large proportion of the equine head. They are part of the respiratory system and the roots of some of the upper molars sit within these cavities. The sinuses link up with one another but there is a division between those on the left and those on the right. This means that an infection on one side will result in a nasal discharge only on that same side. In contrast discharge resulting from either an infection from the lungs or an allergy will result in a discharge from both nostrils.

A single sided (unilateral) nasal discharge is an important sign that there is a problem with your horse, and it is unusual for it to go away without treatment. It is rare that antibiotics alone will resolve the situation where there is an underlying cause such as a tooth root abscess. Unless an underlying issue is addressed no amount of antibiotics will sort the problem out.

We will usually diagnose the problem by radiographing (X-Raying) the head. From this we can see whether there is fluid in the sinuses and whether the cause is tooth related or not. Ignoring a unilateral nasal discharge can lead to further problems, such as the removal of multiple teeth if the infection spreads to neighbouring teeth.



For further advice contact the practice on: 01328 864444
check out our website : wensumvalleyvets.co.uk
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