

# Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



[www.wmvets.co.uk](http://www.wmvets.co.uk)

October 2022

## Winter MOT

As the nights draw in and weather turns colder, now is the perfect time to ensure your horse is in the best condition and prepared for the winter season ahead. We are excited to offer the Winter MOT package this year to help you achieve this and with a saving of over £140, this is an opportunity not to be missed.

What the Winter MOT includes:

- Visit to your yard
- Thorough general health check
- Examination of heart and lungs
- Lameness assessment
- Inspection of eyes
- Blood sample for general screen haematology and biochemistry
- Worm egg count

This package is offered at £120. A Cushing's blood sample can also be included for an extra £20. Signs of Cushing's disease include lethargy, thick coat, drinking and urinating more than normal and laminitis.

This package offers early detection and treatment of any issues to prevent bigger problems developing over winter, and helps to resolve any issues that have occurred over the summer. Excitingly this year we are able to include in house haematology and biochemistry with the arrival of our new in house laboratory! This means we can get quick results from blood samples allowing for assessment of the liver, kidneys, protein levels, inflammatory markers and blood cells.

**Call the clinic on 01260 280800 to book your appointment.**



**We have some new vets who have joined the team over the last couple of months. Some of you may have met them already as they have been getting out and about.**

## Abi Howard

Please join us in welcoming Abi to the W&M Equine Team! Abi recently graduated from the University of Nottingham in July 2022 and started working for us in August. She has lived in Bramhall for most of her life, until moving to Congleton to join us!



Abi has always been around horses and is lucky enough to have owned Basil for nearly 10 years. Basil has recently retired at the grand age of 22 but before he became an expensive lawn mower, they enjoyed galloping across the Cheshire countryside either out hunting or with the Cross Country Chasers.

Abi is interested in all aspect of equine work, but particularly orthopaedics. In her spare time Abi still rides (borrows other peoples horses!), as well as having a keen interest in power lifting and playing rugby. Abi is very much looking forward to meet all our lovely clients as she get out and about with the practice

## Team News

### Rachel Hurley

We are delighted to share the news that Rachel had a little boy on 7th September – Ned William Hurley. As you can see he is already following in his mother's footsteps and getting involved down on the farm. Congratulations to Rachel and Will!



## Megan Mills-Knott

Meg joined the team after graduating from Liverpool University in July this year, where she always knew she wanted to go into equine practice. Since joining W&M she has developed an interest in ophthalmology and improving the care of older horses and ponies. When not at work, Meg will



be found with a nose in a book, or enjoying a bit of karaoke!! She is very much looking forward to meeting everyone as she spends more time out and about. I am sure you will all join us in welcoming Meg to the team.



## Team News

### Hannah Marshall

Congratulations to Hannah who after 3 years hard work has passed her exams and is now a fully qualified Veterinary Nurse – REVN.

## Vaccinations

You may have heard that there is a shortage of equine influenza doses across Europe due to manufacturing issues. This is having an impact on the UK, with some veterinary practices already out of stock.

Fortunately as part of a large Vet Group we are secure in our supply of vaccines and will continue to keep our clients up to date and in line with the standard requirements for vaccinations.

The following table explains the approaches that have been agreed by the various member bodies for affiliated competitions during the period of potential shortage – but we recommend keeping within the 12 month booster interval where possible. If the horse may ever compete under FEI rules then any lapse over 12 months will necessitate a re-start.

Equine influenza still presents a very real risk and we will assist neighbouring practices to ensure all at risk groups are vaccinated and protected.

Some equestrian venues may still require more frequent boosters, so please make sure you check with them.

Horse owners are reminded that many member body rule required a clear 6-7 day period from booster to competing. Please consult discipline Rule Book

These requirements are correct as of today's date. Please check with your member body for regular updates.

BHS (inc BRC), Pony Club, RDA, British Riding Schools and The Showing Council	Defer to a 15 month booster, followed by a 9 month booster. Delay must be documented
British Dressage, British Eventing, British Horseball Association and British Carriage Driving	Moving from 6 month and 21 days of competition to the requirement for a 12 month vaccination booster
British Show Jumping	12 month vaccination required
British Equestrian Vaulting	12 month vaccination required
Endurance GB	12 months. In extreme circumstances can go to 15 months with prior approval of EGB Welfare Director

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## Joint Supplements

**This is the first of our Joint Supplements, more to follow on our Equimove supplement next month**

### BozMerix

This is a relatively new supplement which aids the natural anti-inflammatory system and helps improve orthopaedic comfort. A huge benefit of BozMerix is it is Free From Prohibited Substances (FFPS) and therefore can be used in horses competing at affiliated and FEI competitions. Additionally it has no long term side effects making it a great choice for daily use in older horses.



### BozMerix contains 4 key ingredients.

1. Curcumin- this is the active ingredient in Tumeric. Unfortunately standard Tumeric is very poorly absorbed in the body and has only 3% Curcumin which leaves little evidence to support its use in horses. However, the Curcumin used in BozMerix (Curcumin Longa) has a guaranteed minimum concentration of 13.5% Curcumin and studies have shown improved bioavailability by a factor of 85 and 360x greater bioavailability than Tumeric. Once absorbed, Curcumin has beneficial effects on normal joint function.
2. Avocado/ soybean unsaponifiable (ASU)- this combination of avocado and soybean oil extracts is rapidly absorbed into cells and helps horses maintain levels of glycosaminoglycans better than control groups. Glycosaminoglycans are the building blocks of cartilage and are needed by the body to replenish damaged cartilage.
3. Omega Powder concentrate (high in EPA and DHA)- omega powders are vital to maintain cell structure and also help produce eicosanoids. Eicosanoids are signalling molecules which can trigger effects in the body. Omega 6 tends to trigger proaggregatory effects whereas Omega 3 tends to trigger less aggregatory effects. BozMerix is principally Omega 3, with high levels of EFA's and DHA. Studies have shown dietary supplementation with EPA and DHA results in increased trot stride length.
4. Boswellia serrata- this is extracted from a large tree grown in parts of India, North Africa and the Middle East. It has an antioxidant effect, preventing cell damage. Studies have shown it have synergistic effect when combined with Curcumin. The Serrata form of Boswellia is the most effective form.

We have been using BozMerix successfully in a range of horses, from those out competing regularly at high level, in teenager horses who feel a bit stiff at the start of exercise and in older horses who previously have required daily long term pain relief eg bute, danilon. In some cases BozMerix has completely replaced the need for these non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs which unfortunately come with potential side effects.

BozMerix comes in a palatable powder form and we recommend a loading dose of 2 sachets daily for 10 days and if you see an improvement continue on a maintenance dose of 1 sachet daily. For horses recovering from surgery or in intense training up to 2 sachets can be given daily. BozMerix is available in a box of 20 sachets for a trial period then a choice of 60 sachet box or 1.5kg pouch for more cost effective long term use.