

# Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



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

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## Team building

As a team as well as working hard we also like to play hard as well and every couple of months we like to get together for some kind of activity. This nearly always involves some form of exercise, food and drink, and lots of doggies!

Recently a few of us went for a walk around Three Shires Head and, of course, ended up at the pub for a lovely meal.

We love this amazing photo of all the well behaved dogs.



*Spot the one looking at the treats rather than the camera!*



## Team news

### Nicola Thompson

This month we said a sad goodbye to one of our vets, Nicola Thompson. Nicola along with her horse Ted, and dog Echo are all moving nearer to her family home in Wales. I am sure you will all join me in wishing her well in her new role and life down there

### Rachel Hurley

As some of you may know Rachel is expecting, and will be leaving us to go on maternity leave in the next few weeks. We wish her well and look forward to sharing some baby news with you soon!

**We will soon be sharing some great news with you relating to new vet team members!**



## Good News story!

**We love seeing our patients back to full health enjoying and succeeding at their jobs.**

Alfie originally presented to us on our gastroscopy



clinic as his devoted owner Emma felt he hadn't been on top form. Thanks to our medicine and orthopaedic team working closely together we got to the route of Alfie's problems. After some veterinary



intervention and a lot of patience, dedication and hard

work from his owner he is now back on flying form. Here are some gorgeous photos Emma has shared of them enjoying a very successful outing at the recent Cheshire Shield ODE with a 21 dressage and double clear to finish 4th.



What a fabulous result and its cases like these that make it all worthwhile.



## Supplements

As vets and horse owners we know supplements are a tricky area to navigate with lots of options to choose from. At Wright and Morten we are pleased to offer a range of veterinary grade supplements to ensure your horse is in the best possible health. These can be fed short term for a certain condition or long term for preventative health and our vets are always happy to discuss your horses' individual requirements.

By choosing a veterinary grade supplement you are making the best possible decision for your horse for the following reasons:

- All the ingredients in our supplements are present at a therapeutic level which has been research and proven. Feeding sub-therapeutic levels negate any potential positive effect and is a waste of money.
- Studies have shown some supplements have greater than 30% difference between the amount of ingredient listed on the tub

and the amount contained in the product. With our supplements there is a guarantee the stated levels are actually contained in the product.

- Our ingredients are of high quality to ensure maximum bio-availability (so the body can absorb and use it!)
- There is a palatability guarantee
- All products tested for naturally occurring prohibited substances and are therefore competition legal.

Over the next few months we will be introducing you to our range of supplements in our newsletters and on line.

**For more information on our range of supplements or individual products please do not hesitate to contact us.**



## EquiBioHoof

Our EquiBioHoof is a nutritional supplement which provides all the nutrients necessary to protect and nourish the horse's hoof. Its aim is to ensure optimum hoof growth and improve the integrity of the hoof while containing ZERO sugar.

The hoof horn is composed of horn cells and keratin sulphate based matrix. Keratin sulphate is a protein and sulphur rich material which plays a very important role in maintaining the moisture content of the hoof. This gives the hoof its elasticity and the ability to

absorb concussive forces which helps reduce wear on internal structures. Inadequate moisture or nutrition results in the hoof horn breaking down which will present as cracks, brittle hooves and shoes falling off. EquiBioHoof is scientifically proven to provide the nutrients required for the horse to maintain a healthy hoof production.



### What is in EquiBioHoof?

- **Biotin**
  - o Helps outer hoof layer repair quicker and grow back healthier
- **Calcium and Protein**
  - o In addition to the biotin has been shown to hasten hoof repair when used in conjunction
  - o Additionally, dietary calcium has therapeutic and prophylactic properties for laminitis by altering the balance of phosphorus (a precursor to sudden onset laminitis).
- **Methionine and MSM – Broken down into Sulphur**
  - o Sulphur is the key ingredient in keratinisation of the hoof
  - o Both Methionine and MSM are rich in sulphur and is vital for the integrity of keratin sulphate
- **Zinc**
  - o Zinc is an essential for protein synthesis, protein and carbohydrate metabolism and healing of damaged cells.
  - o Keratin is a protein rich and so zinc is key for healing of horn tissue
- **Amino acids**
  - o Amino acids are the building blocks of protein and therefore essential for keratin and hoof horn integrity.

### When fed for 150 days or more, EquiBioHoof will result in:

- Improved rate of hoof growth
- Improved hoof strength and quality
- Cracks and brittleness disappear
- Hooves develop a better shape
- Walls become thicker and tougher



### Feeding Guidance:

EquiBioHoof is a palatable oral powder. It is added to hard feed once daily. The dose rate is 1X 20g scoop per day for horses, and 1X 20g scoop every other day for ponies or foals.

**If you feel your horse would benefit from EquiBioHoof please contact us at the office on 01260 280800**

## EHV Vaccine

### To Vaccinate or Not To Vaccinate?

#### What is EHV?

EHV or Equine herpes virus is a highly contagious airborne disease which has 9 different variants. The most common variants in the horse are EHV-1 and EHV-4 and are responsible for, not only respiratory disease, but can also cause abortion in pregnant mares and in rare circumstances can cause neurological symptoms, which in most cases is fatal.

Just like in humans, herpes virus' can lay dormant within the horse's body for the majority of its life, and it is only when the body is stressed that the virus can re-activate. There are many risk factors associated with re-activation, commonly these are transport, strenuous exercise and close contact with individuals at equine events.

#### What to look for?

Even when infected horses will only show mild symptoms, likely resembling equine flu. Symptoms can include high temperature, snotty or runny nose, dry cough, lethargy, loss of appetite and swollen neck glands. In a pregnant mare the first and only sign can be abortion of a foal at any point in her gestation. Less commonly, weak and wobbly hind limbs and urinary incontinence can be the first indicators of the neurological form.

If we suspect your horse may be suffering from EHV we will recommend taking a nasal swab which will look for EHV antigens, and a blood test which will look for EHV antibodies. If either test comes back as mildly positive we may suggest repeating the swabs/blood test in 10d to check for a rising titre (2 fold increase in value) to suggest whether there is an active or a latent infection.

#### What can I do to prevent this?

Unfortunately after being infected, the herpes virus doesn't stimulate natural immunity, therefore your horse is at risk of re-infection. This is where the vaccine comes in!

The EHV vaccine reduces shedding of the virus and also makes the signs of disease milder. Although it does not abolish the disease, it does reduce the rate of shedding and minimizes the risk to other horses that you may come into contact with. Horses we consider would benefit from the EHV vaccine are:

- Broodmares - should have an initial course at 5, 7 and 9 month of pregnancy and then every year from then on.
- Racehorses - in many cases are obligated to be vaccinated.

**If you think you may be interested in starting a course of vaccinations for EHV, please call the office to book an appointment on 01260 280800.**