



Spring Newsletter 2021

Practice News

Welcome to our spring 2021 newsletter, we hope you are all keeping well and looking forward to lighter evenings and some (hopefully) sunny days. It has certainly felt like a long winter this year between lockdown and all the snow! Although the snow initially slowed things up for us, we still managed to make it out on visits, however in a few cases some walking was necessary.



Over the last month there have been some upgrades made to the internal area of the barn, including new storage units and central heating. These improvements have been very welcome, especially on the colder days. Unfortunately, due to coronavirus restrictions we are still not allowing clients to accompany their horses into the building, so it might be a little while before you get to see these upgrades for yourselves.

We have been saddened to hear about the equine herpesvirus (EHV-1) outbreak in Valencia earlier this month. Our thoughts are with all the owners, riders, grooms and vets dealing with the ongoing spread of the virus in Europe. If you have concerns or would like to know more about EHV-1 take a look at our facebook page or have a read of the BSJ statement made on the 2 March 2021 which can be found at www.britishshowjumping.co.uk. Given the importance of good biosecurity in limiting the spread of all infectious diseases, we have put together a short article on this subject, on page 4.

We are pleased to invite you all to a virtual client evening on Tuesday 30 March 2021 at 7pm, that we are running alongside Boehringer. The evening will cover how to prevent and manage arthritis in horses and the use of stem cells to treat equine arthritis. Boehringer are the manufacturers of Arti-Cell, a stem cell based product for treating joint inflammation caused by arthritis. If you are keen to join, this is the link to register for the meeting:

https://boehringer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q63CTcobTx-XSsknwX5ilA

In April, we are excited to let you know that there will be a foot balance x-ray promotion. Foot balance is such an important part of keeping your horse sound and we hope that by running this offer for an entire month, everyone will get the opportunity to take advantage of it. Have a read of the article over the page and give us a call if you would like to know more about the promotion.

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Check out our new website and let us know what you think.

www.ardenehouse.co.uk

If you would like to receive our quarterly newsletters by email please send us a message via the contacts page on our website.

**24 Hour
Emergency
Service**

01224 740700



Ardene House Vet Practice, Kingswells, Aberdeen: 01224 740700

www.ardenehouse.co.uk

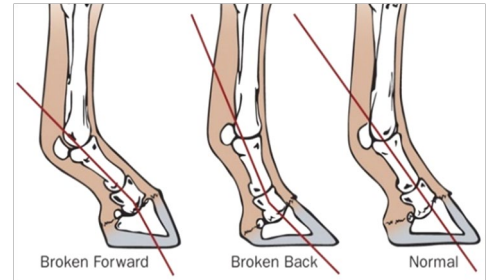
FOOT BALANCE

Hoof care and maintenance is very important in ensuring soundness and performance. Diseases of the foot are a common cause of lameness and regular trimming and correction of distortions is vitally important to try and prevent this.

The hoof is made up of many tiny tubes called horn tubules, that, when packed together form a very strong horny capsule around a similarly shaped bone (the pedal bone). Well balanced feet are symmetrical in size and shape and land evenly on the ground. Most horses will need to be trimmed every 6-8 weeks but for some performance horses trimming and reshoeing or resetting the shoe, maybe necessary every 4-5 weeks.

There are a number of important things which can affect hoof flight and weight loading and these need to be considered when evaluating foot balance:

Hoof Angle - This can be assessed by looking at the hoof from the side. The foot should be aligned so that the hoof-pastern axis forms an unbroken line. A broken back hoof pastern axis is where the angle of the hoof wall is too sloping in relation to the pastern. A broken forward hoof pastern axis occurs when the angle of the hoof is too steep for the pastern. A deviation from a parallel hoof pastern axis can affect the tension in a number of different tendons and affect the loading on the back of the foot which in turn can affect the navicular bone.



Some of the tendons and ligaments that can be affected by changes in hoof balance.

Hoof Length - This is usually measured from the centre of the coronary band to the tip of the toe. Lameness can be caused by either the toe being too long or too short. A long toe will increase the length of the lever arm over which the hoof pivots at the end of the stance phase. This means that the horse will potentially have an increased tendency to stumble. A long toe will also increase the pressure on the navicular bursa by the deep digital flexor tendon.

Mediolateral Hoof Balance - This can be evaluated by looking at the hoof from the front and behind as well as from above with the foot lifted up. It refers to the relative lengths and angles of the medial (inside) and lateral (outside) walls of the hoof. A mediolateral imbalance leads to uneven loading of the internal tissues of the foot and over time, this can cause inflammation, injury and lameness.



One wall is significantly taller than the other.

Sole Thickness - The sole, frog and bars protect the underlying sensitive tissues from trauma. Excessive thinning of the sole predisposes the horse to bruising. Sometimes pieces of the frog can become loose, these bits should be removed as they can create pockets in which bacteria may harbour, causing thrush.

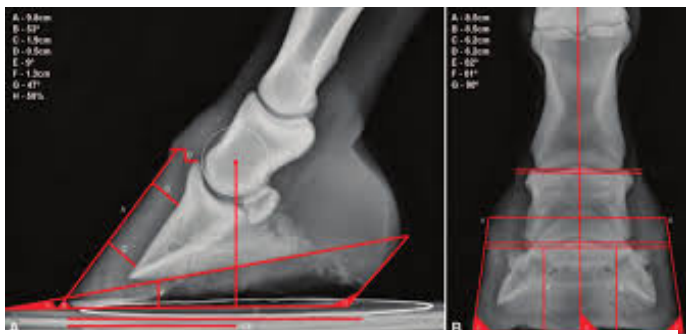
Wall Contour - This describes the circumferential shape of the wall. The hoof wall derives its strength and shape from the orderly arrangement of horn tubules. The tubules at the heels should be straight and parallel to the tubules at the dorsal hoof wall (front of the hoof) otherwise the horse will be at risk of developing collapsed heels. The structural stability of the wall is compromised when the hoof tubules in the toe and quarter regions bend as they near the ground, creating a dished or flared hoof wall.



Collapsed heel

Assessing Foot Balance

Although a reasonable assessment of foot balance can be made by careful inspection of a horse's hoof, x-rays provide a superior evaluation of all the parameters described above. To obtain a set of foot balance x-rays the hoof (with shoe



Lateromedial view

Dorsopalmar view

on if the horse is shod) would usually be radiographed from the front (dorsopalmar view) and the side (lateromedial view). The images allow the vet and farrier to determine the position of the pedal bone relative to the hoof wall and the shoe placement can also be assessed. A number of different measurements can be taken to determine if any changes in trimming or shoeing may be required. It is very important that the farrier is involved in all discussions involving any potential changes to trimming or shoeing. We believe it is important to approach these situations as a team. We would always endeavour to email a set of the x-rays to the farrier and then all decisions can be made together.



SPECIAL FOOT BALANCE X-RAY OFFER



For the whole of April

Trot up assessment, sedation, a lateromedial and dorsopalmar x-ray of each foot (8 x-rays), and a radiographic interpretation report, all for **HALF PRICE!**

MICROCHIP REMINDER

Just a brief reminder that from the **28 March 2021** it is mandatory for ALL horses, ponies and donkeys in the UK to be microchipped. If your horse does not have a microchip then please give us a call to arrange a time for us to come out and insert one. You will then need to inform the relevant Passport Issuing Organisation so that the microchip number can be added to your horse's record and the Central Equine Database. The Equine Register provides and manages the Central Equine Database and National ChipChecker for Defra. There are 81 UK Passport Issuing Organisations and the Equine Register manages their data on the Central Equine Database, which houses over 1.2 million equine records. To check a microchip or access the Central Equine Database please visit: www.equineregister.co.uk/home



ARTHRITIS IN HORSES CLIENT EVENING

You are invited to our
virtual client event...

Join us to find out all you need to know about:

- equine arthritis
- how to prevent and manage arthritis in horses
- using stem cells to treat equine arthritis

Followed by a Q&A session.


ARDENE HOUSE
VET PRACTICE LTD

Tuesday 30th March
at 7pm

https://boehringer.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Q63CTcobTx-XSsknwX5iIA

Please remember to register for the event by clicking the link above



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BIO-SECURITY



Spring is a good time of year for us all to think about what kind of biosecurity measures we have in place for attending competitions and new horses arriving on to the yard. Biosecurity is particularly relevant this spring given the current outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus in Europe. Here is some helpful advice on how to reduce the risk of your horse acquiring and spreading infections when out competing or moving on to a new yard.

Whilst at a competition:

- Avoid direct and indirect contact with other horses.
- Don't share feed/water buckets.
- People shouldn't go between horses from different yards without applying appropriate hand hygiene measures.
- Any stabling should be cleaned and disinfected between horses.
- Communal water troughs should be avoided.
- Don't let your horse graze whilst at a show as another horse may have grazed the area and shed viruses/bacteria onto the grass.



When back at home:

In an ideal world, every horse that leaves the yard to go to a competition should be quarantined when it arrives home. Often this is not always practical but some of the points outlined below could maybe be instigated even if a full 3 week quarantine isn't done.

If a new horse is arriving on the yard, we would always advise the following:

- Isolate the horse, ideally for 3 weeks. This should be long enough that any infections caught during transit have time to develop clinical signs and become apparent. The shorter the quarantine period, and the poorer the biosecurity standards applied, the greater the risk that an infectious horse may be introduced, and infection will spread.
- Check if the horse is up to date with its vaccinations (specifically equine influenza).
- The horse should be physically separated from other horses ideally at distances greater than 10-20m. Usually a stable away from the others can be used as an isolation area. Dogs, cats, and all other horses should be kept away.
- Separate equipment should be used when tending to the horse: buckets, wheelbarrows, grooming kit etc.
- The quarantined horse should be dealt with last and the person handling it should either wear barrier clothing or change their clothes and disinfect their footwear and hands, after tending to the horse.
- Ensure that everyone (visitors to the yard, farriers, physios etc) know that the horse is being quarantined and understands the hygiene principles.
- The horse's temperature should be taken twice a day (it should be $\leq 38.5^{\circ}\text{C}$).
- Monitor for any signs of nasal discharge, coughing, reduced appetite, swellings around the throat, diarrhoea, lack of coordination.
- If you detect any rise in temperature above 38.5°C or any symptoms of ill health then give us a call.
- Contact the office to arrange to discuss with us the use of guttural pouch washes to check your horse isn't a strangles carrier."
- Let us know if you have any specific concerns about other diseases such as flu or herpes virus.

