



Winter Newsletter 2020

Practice News

Welcome to the winter 2020 edition of our quarterly newsletter. It is very strange to think that Christmas is almost upon us. We hope you are all well and able to meet with some family and friends over the festive period. Life at Ardene has been busy over the last few months with lots of routine work along with lameness investigations and plenty of dental cases.

In relation to coronavirus we are asking clients to let us know if they are having to isolate so we can make arrangements for one of our nurses to assist us at the visit. We are also still requesting that no equine clients come into the hospital when their horse is being examined/treated. Most owners have chosen to drop their horse in at the hospital the evening before or the morning of their investigation/treatment, arranging for collection later the same day and this has so far worked well. Unfortunately, with the changing restrictions and lock down in England it has meant that some of our visiting clinicians have had to be re-scheduled. We would like to thank all our clients that have been affected by this, we really appreciate your understanding and patience.

A few weeks ago, we ran a very busy gastroscopy week which was kindly sponsored by the drug company Boehringer. Many of the horses we scoped were found to be suffering from gastric ulcers so hopefully with them now on treatment they will be feeling a good bit better.

Congratulations to our vet Tori who in October, after a year of lectures and practical training, passed her Animal Chiropractor exams. Congratulations also to our vet Mairi Sinclair who has been short listed for the Horse and Hound Vet of the Year. Mairi is up against 3 other equine vets for the title. It is a huge achievement to be shortlisted for this award and is testament to the commitment and passion that Mairi has for her job.



For those clients that follow our worming programme you should have received your 2021 plan. If you haven't or you would like to find out more then please give us a call and ask to speak to our vets, Anna or Beth who have taken over the running of the worming programme from Mairi.

And finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish all our clients and their horses, ponies and donkeys, a very merry Christmas and happy new year!

In this issue:

- Practice news
- Vettings : buying and selling horses
- WeatherBeeta's rugging temperature guide
- Christmas Quiz
- Festive Opening Times



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



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"Do you have one like this in dapple grey"

Vettings – Buying and Selling Horses

Buying a new horse is a very exciting time and there are lots of things to consider before going ahead with a purchase. One thing we would always recommend is that before making a final decision, you arrange a vetting. A pre-purchase exam (aka vetting) is a thorough clinical examination done by a vet, on behalf of the purchaser to identify and assess factors of a veterinary nature that could prejudice the horse's suitability for its intended use.

The seller can suggest a particular vet practice to perform the vetting, but it is important that as the buyer, you arrange the vetting and ideally also have a chat with the vet beforehand about what you are hoping to do with the horse and any reservations you may have. Since each pre-purchase examination is carried out on behalf of a specific prospective purchaser, the opinion of the vet on whether to go ahead with the purchase is based on the purchaser's individual needs and intended use of the horse. This means that a horse could potentially fail a vetting for one purchaser but pass for another if the intended use is different.

Vettings should not be done on behalf of the seller as in this situation the vet is working for the seller and not the purchaser. The only exception to this is when a horse is sold through an auction where a 'sales vetting' can be performed. It is possible for the seller's own vet to perform a vetting on behalf of a purchaser but only if the seller gives permission for all the veterinary history to be shared with the buyer. As this can create a conflict of interest there are many practices that have a policy of refusing to perform vettings on horses that they already have any medical history on. It is therefore really important that prior to the vetting the vet practice is told specifically who owns the horse. Sometimes it is an agent that is selling the horse on behalf of someone else. If the agent's name is given as being the seller/owner, then the vet may not be able to ascertain whether they already have history on the horse.

The standard examination is conducted in 5 stages and usually takes 2-2.5 hours. It should be noted that pre-purchase examinations in other countries don't always follow the same format as in the UK. Ideally the horse should be stabled beforehand and clean. There needs to be a firm level surface for trotting up and somewhere appropriate for the horse to be seen ridden and lunged. There also needs to be a darkened area so that the horse's eyes can be properly examined.

Stage 1 = A thorough external examination to detect clinically apparent signs of injury, disease or physical abnormality. It includes examination of the incisor teeth, eyes, the heart and lungs will also be listened to. It does not include examination of the inside of the sheath, a detailed mouth examination with a gag, height measurement or any examination for pregnancy.



Stage 2 = The horse is seen in hand at walk and trot in a straight line on a firm surface. Flexion tests of all 4 limbs and trotting in a circle on a firm surface are not mandatory but can provide useful additional information so will usually be performed unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so. The horse is also turned sharply and backed up for a few paces.

Stage 3 = The horse is exercised (usually ridden but could be done on a lunge). The horse needs to be worked hard enough to increase the heart and respiratory rate. There are certain heart and respiratory conditions that only become apparent when the horse is worked. There are also some types of lameness that are more pronounced when a horse is ridden or on a circle.

Stage 4 = Period of rest during which the heart and lungs are listened to.

Stage 5 = Second trot up in hand, flexion tests are often also repeated at this point. At this stage the vet is looking for any signs of strains or injuries made evident by stages 3 and 4.



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A blood sample is often taken for storage (usually for 6 months) for possible future analysis to detect substances such as anti-inflammatories and tranquilisers if there is a suspicion after purchase that the horse may have been 'doped' at the time of the vetting.

Additional procedures such as an oral exam with sedation and a gag, radiography, endoscopy of the upper respiratory tract and ultrasonography can all be performed at the request of the purchaser. The vet performing the examination may suggest an additional procedure such as x-rays, to investigate the potential significance of something found during the vetting. Depending on the value of the horse some insurance companies will request that x-rays are taken. The number of x-rays required can vary and it is important to confirm what is needed before the vetting takes place. X-rays of the feet will usually require the shoes to be removed.

Sometimes a limited pre-purchase exam (aka 2-stage vetting) may be requested. It is possible that depending on the intended use of the horse, a 2-stage vetting which only includes stages 1 and 2, might be sufficient. However, it is important that the purchaser understands the limitations of a 2-stage vetting and they will usually be asked to sign a disclaimer acknowledging this fact.

After the vetting the buyer will be issued with a vetting certificate which will state all the findings of the examination. On the last page the vet will state their opinion as to whether or not, on the balance of probabilities, those findings prejudice the horse's suitability for purchase for its intended use. If you plan to insure the horse it is a really good idea to get the vetting certificate to the insurance company as soon as possible. Even though a horse has passed a vetting, an insurance company may put exclusions on their cover in relation to things that have been picked up during the vetting, for example a small skin lesion may mean that an insurance company won't cover any skin conditions.



WeatherBeeta's Rugging Temperature Guide

Average Temp (C)	Turned Out Unclipped	Turned Out Clipped
15° & above	Nothing	Nothing Or Lite Turnout (No Fill) If Rainy/Or Windy
10° - 15°	Nothing	Lite Turnout (No Fill)
5° - 10°	Nothing or Lite Turnout (No Fill)	Medium/Lite Turnout (50g - 100g)
0° - 4°	Medium/Lite Turnout (50g - 100g)	Medium Turnout With Neck Or Neck Cover (100g - 220g)
-10° - 0°	Medium Turnout With Neck Cover (100g - 200g)	Heavy Turnout With Neck Cover (300g)
-10° & below	Heavy Turnout With Neck Cover (300g)	Heavy Turnout With Neck (300g) With Liner/Under Rug

Average Temp (C)	Stabled Unclipped	Stabled Clipped
15° & above	Nothing	Nothing Or Sheet/Fleece
10° - 15°	Nothing	Sheet/Fleece Or Medium/Lite Stable Rug (100g)
5° - 10°	Lite or Medium/Lite Stable Rug (100g)	Medium Stable Rug (200g - 250g)
0° - 4°	Medium Stable Rug (200g - 250g)	Heavy Stable Rug With Neck (300g)
-10° - 0°	Medium or Heavy Stable Rug With Neck (200g - 250g)	Heavy Stable Rug With Neck (300g) And Under Rug
-10° & below	Heavy Stable Rug With Neck (300g - 400g)	Heavy Stable Rug With Neck (300g - 400g) And Under Rug



Christmas Quiz – 5 Questions = 5 Prizes.



Send your answers and contact details to:

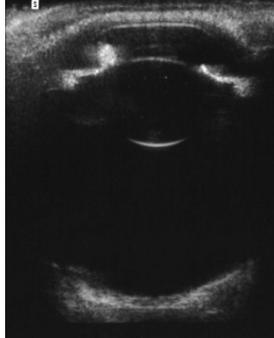
farmandequine@ardenehouse.co.uk

Closing date is Monday 21 December 2020. A winner for each question will be chosen at random on Wednesday 23 December 2020.

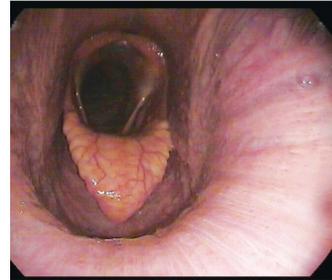
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



1. What is the name of this bone? **Prize: An equine first aid kit.**
2. This is an ultrasound image of what part of a horse's body? **Prize: A year free for 1 horse on the Ardene House worming plan.**
3. Where in the horse's body was the endoscope when it took this picture? **Prize: A bottle of wine and a box of chocolates.**
4. What is this piece of equipment called? **Prize: A tub of Joint Aid.**
5. This dog accompanies which of our equine vets on her visits? **Prize: A free visit, vaccination and teeth rasp for 1 horse.**



Festive Opening Times:



24th Dec (Thur) = Open until 2pm

31st Dec (Thur) = Open until 6pm

25th Dec (Fri) = Emergency

1st Jan (Fri) = Emergency

26th Dec (Sat) = Emergency

2nd Jan (Sat) = Emergency

27th Dec (Sun) = Emergency

3rd Jan (Sun) = Emergency

28th Dec (Mon) = Emergency

4th Jan (Mon) = Emergency

29th Dec (Tues) = Open as normal

5th Jan (Tues) = Open as normal

30th Dec (Wed) = Open as normal

6th Jan (Wed) = Open as normal