



## Winter Newsletter 2021

### Practice News

Welcome to the winter 2021 edition of our quarterly newsletter. We hope you are all well and everyone is adjusting to the dark nights. Here at Ardene we have already dug out the woolly hats (and snow tyres) ready for the next few months! 2021 has been a busy year for us and 2022 looks set to be similar.

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the departure of our equine vet Lesley McLaren who finished her time with us at the end of November. Lesley has been a member of our team for 24 years and we are all going to miss her a lot. Lesley made the tough decision that it was time for a change and she is off to work alongside her husband at Kirkton Vets in Stonehaven. We have loved working with Lesley and we want to take this opportunity to wish her all the best in her new position.

Last month we welcomed a new equine vet, Saskia into the team. Saskia graduated from Edinburgh vet school earlier this year and she is settling into life at Ardene House well. If you haven't already met Saskia, have a read over the page to find out more about her.

It is that time of year again when we re-assess and update our worming programme. With reports of worm resistance becoming increasingly more common, it is now more important than ever that we try to use a targeted approach to reduce worm burdens. Please have a read of the short article on the next page and give us a call if you would like to sign up to our worming plan.

As some of you may already know, the British Horseracing Authority are bringing in changes to the primary booster interval schedule for Equine Influenza and reducing the current annual booster requirement to six monthly intervals. This will come into force from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. Although there has been no word yet from the FEI, BHS or any of the individual sporting bodies we would urge everybody competing to check that their vaccinations comply with the rules they are competing under.

Our zone visits are proving popular so we have included the next set of dates in this newsletter. Give the office a call to get your routine visits booked in.

**And finally, we would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very merry Christmas and happy new year!**

*Merry Christmas*



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Check out our website:

[www.ardenehouse.co.uk](http://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**



**Ardene House Vet Practice, Kingswells, Aberdeen: 01224 740700**

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## Vaccinations – Equine Influenza and Tetanus

Influenza is a virus and along with tetanus is one of the diseases we routinely vaccinate against. Equine flu is highly contagious and spreads rapidly between horses, especially if they are not vaccinated. The clinical signs of the disease include: dullness, high temperature, coughing and nasal discharge. Some horses can end up with a secondary bacterial infection affecting their lungs which can cause a pneumonia. Diagnosis of flu involves taking a nasopharyngeal swab and a blood sample. As equine influenza is highly contagious, strict biosecurity protocols have to be initiated following a positive diagnosis. This includes isolation and barrier nursing of the infected horse(s), movement restrictions to stop spread of the disease to other yards and regular temperature monitoring of all in-contact horses.



The vaccine we use contains the most up to date strains recommended for vaccination against flu and we encourage everyone to get their horses vaccinated even if they don't compete. It is possible for some fully vaccinated horses to contract the virus, not show much in the way of clinical symptoms, and then bring it back to the yard, thereby putting horses that aren't vaccinated at risk of developing the disease.

For those horses that do compete, most competitions run under rules specifying that all horses must be fully vaccinated against flu. **The current British Equestrian Federation rules are as follows: 21-92 days between the first and second vaccination, 150-215 days between the second and third vaccinations and then annual boosters within 365 days of the previous dose. However, depending on the specific competition body involved, your horse may require boosters within 6 months of the previous vaccination in order to compete.**

**British horse racing rules** have followed the same intervals as that specified above, however they have announced a rule change that will come into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022. From this date any horses starting a new primary course will need to have 21-60 days between the first and second vaccinations, and then 120-180 days between the second and third vaccinations followed by boosters at not more than 6 month intervals. Horses with a compliant primary course and compliant boosters up to and including the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 do not have to re-start their vaccinations.

It is therefore really important that if you are intending to compete your horse, you know exactly under which rules you will be competing. Any lapse in the vaccination timing, even by just a few days, requires that the horse re-starts the full course of flu vaccines. **Although we endeavour to send out vaccination reminders, we do not know under what rules you will be competing and it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure your horse's vaccines comply with the competition rules.**



*Horse being treated for tetanus.*

Tetanus is usually fatal in horses and all horses and ponies should be vaccinated against it. Tetanus is caused by production of endotoxins by the bacteria, *Clostridium tetani*. The spores of this bacteria are commonly found in the soil and may also be present in horses' faeces. Tetanus is not a contagious disease, so it won't spread from one horse to another. A horse develops the disease when the bacteria infect a wound. The wound could be very small such as a puncture. The condition is very difficult and costly to treat and unfortunately treatment is often unsuccessful.

Effective immunity against tetanus requires a primary course of two vaccinations given 4-6 weeks apart, followed by a booster 12 months later. Thereafter subsequent vaccinations can be given at 2 yearly intervals. Tetanus vaccination is often given as a combination vaccine with equine flu.

### **Vaccination Amnesty – Kindly sponsored by Boehringer**

**Is your horse or pony needing to re-start their vaccinations?**

**All second vaccinations done in March will be FOC (a visit charge will still apply).**

**Ex: Get the 1<sup>st</sup> vaccination done in February and then the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination give in March will be free of charge.**



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## Worming Update

We have now updated and emailed out our 2021/22 worming programme to those of our clients signed up to the mailing list. This is a free of charge service which outlines a suggested schedule for the timing of worm egg counts and strategic winter worming, starting from this December.



Wormer containing moxidectin

It is this time of year we start to think about the use of a moxidectin wormer to cover for encysted redworm. 'Encysted' means the redworm are hibernating in the lining of the intestine and will re-emerge in late winter/early spring to continue their life cycle. This sudden emergence can cause clinical signs such as colic, sudden weight loss and diarrhoea, particularly in young horses. Moxidectin is the only drug which is effective for encysted redworm and therefore its use should be restricted

to this purpose only. It should not be used during the summer months, unless otherwise advised by a vet, as other wormers are more appropriate during this time. Alternatively, there is now a blood test available for redworm, which can be used in winter to avoid the use of moxidectin in horses with low encysted redworm burdens. This is most suitable for 'low risk' horses, which have had low worm egg counts (<200) in the previous grazing season and good pasture management. When combined with Equisal tapeworm kits, this test allows us to find horses which do not require worming in winter at all.

Equisal tapeworm kits can be picked up from the practice and are used to collect a saliva sample. This test is suitable for any horse of post weaning age and provides valuable information about the tapeworm status of your horse. Of the horses we have tested so far in 2021, more than 90% had a low tapeworm burden and so did not require treatment. Historically, we have always treated every horse for tapeworm every year and whilst we still want to treat those which need it, this data shows blanket treatment will result in significant overtreatment. Therefore, tapeworm treatment should ideally follow a positive test result.



Equisal test kit

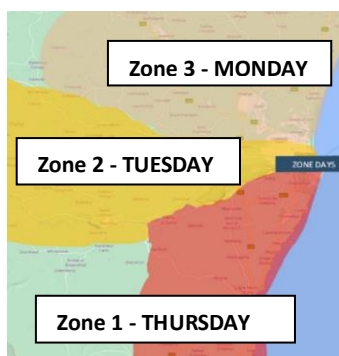
Please contact our office if you would like to be added to the worming programme mailing list. The programme also includes redworm and tapeworm testing FAQs and advice for the worming of foals, yearlings, pregnant mares and horses new to the yard. Please also let us know if you would like a separate version of the programme which incorporates the use of Equisal kits and redworm blood tests.



### DECEMBER 2021 - REDWORM OFFERS



- Free visit if blood sampling 4+ horses for redworm on the same yard
- Half price redworm blood sampling, postage and reporting fee: £24 (instead of £48)



### ZONE VISIT DATES - £20 visit fee (pay at time)

#### Zone 1 – Thursday

6<sup>th</sup> January  
20<sup>th</sup> January  
3<sup>rd</sup> February  
17<sup>th</sup> February  
3<sup>rd</sup> March  
31<sup>st</sup> March

#### Zone 2 – Tuesday

11<sup>th</sup> January  
25<sup>th</sup> January  
8<sup>th</sup> February  
22<sup>nd</sup> February  
8<sup>th</sup> March  
22<sup>nd</sup> March

#### Zone 3 – Monday

17<sup>th</sup> January  
31<sup>st</sup> January  
14<sup>th</sup> February  
28<sup>th</sup> February  
14<sup>th</sup> March  
28<sup>th</sup> March



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## MEET OUR VETS: DR. SASKIA CURRELL BVM&S MRCVS



We would like to introduce you to our new graduate vet Saskia who started with us in October. Saskia is settling in well at Ardene and is enjoying helping the other vets as well as picking up some routine work. She graduated in 2021 from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies, Edinburgh and she has a keen passion for all things equine!

Saskia grew up in Gloucestershire with her cob Royston, and cheeky Welsh A pony, Ziggy. In her spare time Saskia hopes to continue riding, as well as keeping up with an array of other hobbies including painting and sketching.

We know everyone will make her feel very welcome and she looks forward to getting to know you all and your horses. Welcome to the team Saskia!



### Danilon: change of packaging



As some of you may have already noticed, the commonly used non-steroidal anti-inflammatory, Danilon, has had a re-branding with a change to the sachet size and appearance. Danilon Equidos Gold is a smaller sachet containing a more concentrated form of the drug. Each sachet contains the same amount of Danilon in it as its predecessor and the dose rate is the same, so for those horses on long term treatment there is no change to the number of sachets required.



Keep an eye out on our Facebook page for our 12 days of Christmas competition



### **Festive Opening Times:**

**24th Dec (Fri) = Office shuts 4pm**

**25th Dec (Sat) = Emergency**

**26th Dec (Sun) = Emergency**

**27th Dec (Mon) = Emergency**

**28th Dec (Tues) = Emergency**

**29th Dec (Wed) = Open as normal**

**30th Dec (Thurs) = Open as normal**

**31st Dec (Fri) = Office shuts at 4pm**

**1st Jan (Sat) = Emergency**

**2nd Jan (Sun) = Emergency**

**3rd Jan (Mon) = Emergency**

**4th Jan (Tues) = Emergency**

**5th Jan (Wed) = Open as normal**

**6th Jan (Thurs) = Open as normal**