



KERNOW
FARM & EQUINE

Together delivering veterinary healthcare for the future

SEPTEMBER 2020



SEPTEMBER EQUINE NEWSLETTER

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LAMENESS WORKUPS

Sometimes horses and ponies become lame with no obvious signs. Once the vet has given an initial assessment and discussed with you the history of your horse, shoeing, any recent trips falls, knocks, how long the lameness has been going on, if you have had any previous treatment etc and if then there is still nothing obvious, it may then be advised for the vet to conduct a 'lameness work up'.

The initial Lameness Assessment...

- Walk and trot in a straight line
- Flexion tests (see picture in bottom left corner of Rachel Lye)
- Lunging on both firm and soft surface
- Palpation of the limbs/back/neck (picture on left of Alitair Todd during a lameness assessment)
- Possibly a ridden examination, dependent on the history and nature of the problem

This initial examination will sometimes help to give an idea of which area is causing the discomfort. Radiographs/Ultrasound will more than likely be performed to get a clearer idea of what is going on should the vet feel that it has been located to a specific area.

If however, the initial examination does not give any indications then it is likely a series of nerve blocks will be performed.

What are Nerve Blocks?

- Nerve blocks are where the vet injects a small amount of anaesthetic into the limb to numb the nerve supply to a specific area.
- If the horse is then sound - we will then know that the source of the pain is from the numbed area.
- Sometimes several nerve blocks may need to be given starting at the bottom and working up the leg before the affected area is located.
- Once an area of lameness has been located, the vet may then perform further blocks into the tendon sheath or joints for example to try to narrow down where the pain is coming from.
- X-Rays may be taken to check for any bony changes or an ultrasound may be needed if it is soft tissue related.

Lameness work ups can take sometime and really depends on the number of blocks that may need to be performed. We have facilities in Bodmin that you can drop your horse off to us or as long as you have suitable facilities, we can come out to you.



Please do not hesitate to call us on 01208 76403. Office hours 8.30am-5-30pm Mon-Fri and 8.30am-12pm

LAMENESS WORKUPS CONTINUED.....

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The consulting vet will discuss with you all viable options in detail. There will no doubt be several options available but each case is different and the options offered will be dependant on the findings of the lameness workup. Some of the options that may be discussed are:

- Rest
- Medication of a structure with an anti-inflammatory drug for example placing steroid into a joint
- Controlled exercise- such as walking in hand
- Medial Farriery
- Systemic treatment with an anti-inflammatory (e.g. 'bute')
- Surgery to treat specific condition

It maybe that further investigation will be required such as bone scan, MRI or CT scans. These type of scans will require referrals, but again will will liaise with you and any other specialists that we feel will benefit your horses treatment. We have personal connections with referral centres around the county to ensure the best treatment for your horse.

There are times when a vet may feel that it is not advised to conduct a lameness work up. These situations could be:

- If there is already an obvious cause of lameness
- If the horse is so lame/uncomfortable there is a concern that walking/trotting may make matters worse. In those cases it may be the decision to go straight into radiographs/scanning etc.
- If there is a trauma or concerns of a fracture then radiograph/bone scan would be the first port of call.

IS YOUR HORSE INSURED?

The cost of lameness workups really can vary from horse to horse dependant on the amount of nerve blocks, follow up investigative work and potential ongoing treatment depending on the findings. Generally you would be looking at anything from about £300 and upwards.

Most insurance companies will cover the costs of any lameness workups as long as the horse has not had a pre-existing problem that may have been related to the lameness.



CORONAVIRUS AND EQUINE DENTALS SPECIAL OFFER!

Ensure your horse is ready for action with things like vaccinations and dentals up to date. In order to help maintain a 2m distance between vets and owners we are running a special offer on dentals to include sedation. Sedating horses means, once injected, vets will be able to safely carry out a thorough dental exam and teeth rasp whilst maintaining a 2m gap. Kernow Equine Vets are offering this dental exam and sedation for £75. To book please call 01208 76403 today.

*Please ensure there is a stable with some bedding available to carry out the exam.

Send us your horsey pics!

We would like you to send us a picture of your horse, each newsletter will feature a new photo of the month! Please send to Ruth at info@kernowfarmandequine.com

VACCINATION REMINDERS

We endeavour to send out reminders for your vaccines. However, this relies on our client information being up to date and correct. If you change your mobile number/email please let us know. We would politely remind you that it is the owners responsibility to ensure their horses vaccinations are up to date and comply with competition rules. We suggest you make a note on your calendar/phone as a backup.

Please call us if you need to update any of your details.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

ITS LAW BY OCTOBER 2020

If horse owners do not microchip their horses by October 2020 they could face sanctions from their local authority including a compliance notice and, as a last resort, a fine of up to £200