



# WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER



## Diarrhoea in Adult Horses: Part 1

As we move through the wetter, muddier months, we often see an increase in calls about adult horses with diarrhoea. While many cases are mild and short-lived, others can deteriorate quickly or cause significant discomfort, so it's important to know what to look for, when to call us, and how to reduce the risk on your yard.

### Why diarrhoea in horses matters

Diarrhoea can contribute to:

- Rapid dehydration
- Loss of electrolytes
- Damage to the intestinal lining
- Risk of endotoxaemia (toxins entering the bloodstream)

- Colic-like pain
- Laminitis secondary to systemic inflammation

Early assessment is always safer than waiting to see if things “settle down.”

### Common causes

Diarrhoea in adult horses can stem from a number of conditions, and often more than one factor is involved. Current common causes include:



## Christmas Opening Hours

Over the Christmas period our office will be open as follows - outside of these hours we will of course be offering our normal emergency service on 07850 230803

Tuesday 23rd December -  
8.15am-5pm (normal hours)

Wednesday 24th December -  
8.15am-5pm (normal hours)

Thursday 25th December -  
**Emergency Only**

Friday 26th December -  
**Emergency Only**

Saturday 27th December -  
**Emergency Only** office open  
8:30-11am for medicine collection

Sunday 28th December -  
**Emergency Only**

Monday 29th December -  
8.15am-5pm (normal hours)

Tuesday 30th December -  
8.15am-5pm (normal hours)

Wednesday 31st December -  
8.15am-5pm (normal hours)

Thursday 1st January 2026 -  
**Emergency Only**

Friday 2nd January 2026 -  
as normal

**Merry Christmas from  
the whole team at  
Wensum Valley Vets !**

### *Gut flora disruption*

- Sudden diet changes
- High-starch feeds
- Recent antibiotic use
- Grazing on rich pasture

### *Parasites*

- Particularly encysted small redworm emerging en masse

### *Toxic or environmental triggers*

- Sand ingestion
- Contaminated water
- Certain plants or mouldy forage

### *Systemic disease*

- Liver disease
- Right dorsal colitis

### *Infectious agents*

- Salmonella
- Clostridium difficile and Clostridium perfringens
- Coronavirus
- These can affect single horses or whole yards, and many are zoonotic (spreadable to humans), so hygiene is essential.

Because the list of possibilities is long, a tailored work-up is important for proper treatment which may involve further testing or initial symptomatic treatment.

*Look out for Part 2 with more information in January! If you have concerns about any of your horses or need help reviewing your worming strategy, we're always happy to help.*

