



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

New Ovacyte Worm Egg Counting Machine

The practice has invested in a state-of-the-art worm egg counting machine which can identify the species of worm present as well as giving a very precise reading of the eggs per gram present in the faecal sample. This automated process is significantly more precise than the previous method of manually counting and is available for one-off worm egg counts or as part of **our worming scheme**.

Worm egg counting is recommended and now common practice for most horse owners instead of 'blanket worming' or worming periodically. It often results in financial benefits, as money is saved by not using wormers, as well as the long term benefits of not causing wormer resistance problems.



Wensum Valley Vets



What's new at Wensum Valley Vets?

Practice Standards Scheme

At the start of March the practice received the fantastic news that we have achieved the RCVS Practice Standards Scheme accreditation for Equine General Practice and Farm Animal General Practice. The Practice Standards Scheme is a recognition of how our team works together for constant improvement and the result of a full clinical and regulatory compliance audit, which showcased work we are proud of. Jay (Office Manager) and Tim (Vet) lead the project and worked tirelessly to write-up, evidence and organise the application!

Positive Hoofprint Awards

At the start of April we were pleased to announce that the practice has achieved the Positive Hoofprint Awards for both Farm and Equine practice, awarded for sustainability in veterinary practice and high standards of patient care. We are the first farm and equine veterinary practice in the country to achieve these awards! They recognise our ongoing commitment to our patients, people and the planet. From planning our visits to limit miles travelled, to reducing unnecessary use of medications which harm the environment, to carefully categorising our clinical waste and recycling. The



01328 864444

Worming Scheme:

Our worming scheme offers fantastic value, for only £60 per year, you will receive:

- 4 worm egg counts
- 1 tapeworm saliva test
- 10% discount on any wormers required
- 1 faecal egg count reduction tests (FECRT)
- Unlimited worming advice

Please speak to your vet at their next visit or call our office on 01328 864444 if you are interested in joining.

whole team have worked extremely hard towards this achievement. Working towards these awards have also involved community projects (like the grant detailed below) and educational projects with the Pony Club, Young Farmers and aspiring vets on placement.

StableLab Machines

You might have noticed our vets using a smart new piece of handheld technology. The StableLab is a 'horse-side' test, meaning it can be carried out in just 15 minutes whilst on your yard. It measures an inflammatory protein called SAA which is marker of inflammation and can be interpreted to help determine if infection is present from a sample of just a few drops of blood. This can aid important decision making, and allow regular monitoring of equine patients. SAA can also be used as a pre-competition test, to see if the start of an inflammatory/infectious process which may impact performance is present!



Community Grant

The practice nominated YANA (You Are Not Alone), the rural mental health charity in the East of England, for an IVC Local Community Grant, and are pleased to say this has been successful. We will therefore be donating £1000 to YANA, a charity whose work we all feel passionate about.



Continued Learning

Like many medical professionals, vets are required to complete a set amount of Continued Professional Development (CPD) each year. It is a great opportunity to explore areas of interest, learn new techniques and keep up to date with new research and treatment options. Tim recently attended the Equine Veterinary Dental Association Congress in Dublin, where new techniques in equine dentistry, tooth extraction and imaging horses' heads were discussed. Lauren travelled to The Mare and Foal Sanctuary in Devon, to attend a course on equine anaesthesia and castration, where Dartmoor ponies for the Dartmoor Hill Pony Association. Dave and Toby have been refreshing their Racecourse Vet qualifications at Aintree, and the whole team have many courses and talks planned for the rest of the year.

Smallholders' Club and Upcoming Talks

Since its launch at the start of 2024 our Smallholders' Club has held two well attended meetings, with a third planned for May, in the topic of Medicines Handling and giving medications and injections. We also have an upcoming talk for Farriers in May. This meeting will be focussed on reviewing radiographs (X-rays) and how vets and farriers work together to interpret them and made changes/treatments based on what they show. We are so lucky to have our fantastic meeting space at the clinic to host these events in.

