



WENSUM VALLEY VETS NEWSLETTER

Our Targeted Worming Scheme

Our worming scheme offers fantastic value, for only £65 per year, you will receive:

- 4 worm egg counts (WECs)
- 1 tapeworm saliva test (to be done between November and February)
- 10% discount on any wormers required
- 1 faecal egg count reduction test (FECRT)
- Unlimited worming advice by phone

The worming scheme could save you more than £44 per year!

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



Wensum Valley Vets



Mud Fever

“Mud fever” also known as pastern dermatitis, is a skin condition that affects the lower leg of horses and ponies following exposure to a cycle of wetting and drying or muddy conditions. (Mud fever can also occur on other areas of the body where it is called “Rain Scald”). Mud Fever usually starts at the site of a breach in the skin which allows bacteria to enter and establish an infection. Mud Fever can be labour intensive to treat and action is required quickly to get the signs under control.

Potential Causes and Contributing Factors

- Environmental conditions (standing in mud or wet bedding)
- Feathers trapping excessive moisture around the skin
- Trauma from wounds, overreaching and incorrectly fitted boots chafing



- Feather mites
- Chronic wetting and drying cycles from excessive washing/scrubbing
- Immune mediated diseases
- Photosensitivity caused by decreased liver function affecting only white skin, aggravated by sun light



Clinical Signs

- Crusty scabs
- Areas of matted hair or loss of hair
- Pink or reddened skin
- Raw or broken skin
- Clear/yellow discharge oozing from the area
- Heat and swelling in the lower limb
- Pain

Care

It is important to remove the inciting cause of mud fever for treatment to be successful. Making environmental changes can be key to this. Clipping hair and removing feathers will allow air to circulate and prevent the hair from trapping moisture at the site. The affected area should then be washed with dilute hibiscrub (chlorhexidine) and dried thoroughly with a clean towel, kitchen roll or a hairdryer! The cleaning and drying process should be repeated daily, removing all scabs and flaky skin during the washing (warm water can aid this).

Veterinary Treatment

Many horses with mud fever will require veterinary care as it can be a difficult problem to resolve without the help of medicated products. We might provide you with an antibacterial and/or steroid cream to apply, as well as advising on management. Many horses also benefit from painkillers to reduce the discomfort and inflammation caused by mud fever. In severe cases we may recommend that you apply a bandage/clingfilm wrap over a cream to keep it in place overnight and allow it to soak in to loosen scabs. Please call us if you have any concerns that your horse may be suffering from mud fever.

