

Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



www.wmvets.co.uk

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Transport

Great news... should your horse need to come into our clinic, we can now provide you with transport to and from the clinic! We appreciate when your horse is poorly it is a worrying time for you, and the last thing you want to be trying to do is find transport on top of everything else. We will pick your horse up for his/her appointment and return them home safely once the treatment is complete, even if you are unable to attend yourself.

The benefits to you and your horse are:

- Superb top of the range 3.5 ton fully insured horsebox
- Experienced groom/Qualified nurse taking care of your horse from door to door
- Sedation of your horse if he/she doesn't like to load or is a worrier when travelling
- Flexibility re timings of return journey with overnight livery if required
- Competitive rates

Please contact the office for a quote and more details on: 01260 280800



Meet the team:

Next in our meet the team series is...

Anna Stonex

Anna, our vet, has been with us for 2.5 years having previously worked in an equine practice in Yorkshire. Anna grew up on a farm in the Cotswolds where her parents still sheep farm and run a livery yard. In her spare time she trains and competes her horses, enjoys long dog walks with her labrador Islay and border terrier Ted, who almost always accompanies her on yard visits. Anna's main areas of interest is orthopaedics and she splits her time between lameness and poor performance investigations in clinic and regular vet work on the road.



Sophie

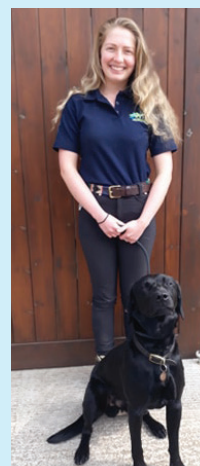
Sophie came to Wright & Morten in 2018 and is responsible for debt escalations as part of the accounts team. She has three donkeys, Freddie, Barney and Missy (who all make great lawn mowers) and they regularly hang out at her front door just in case a carrot may appear. Sophie also has her rescue terrier Tinker, who finds all aspects of life very exciting! And soon a new addition Hattie, a Jack Russell puppy, will complete the brood. Weekends are spent out walking in the Cheshire and Derbyshire countryside with Tinker or visiting Chester Zoo with her niece and as a member of the National Trust and previous employee, Sophie loves all things to do with history, visiting stately homes, reading historical novels and binge watching Downton Abbey!



We are delighted to welcome a new member of our team:

Niamh Brown

Niamh graduated from the University of Nottingham where she spent her free time playing polo for the University team and exploring the Peak District. For the last two years she has been working in a very busy equine practice North of Manchester but has now relocated down south with her partner and 14 month old black lab, Wilf, who comes to work with her every day. Niamh's main interests lie in medicine, particularly in gastroscopy and endoscopy.



Sweet itch

How to ditch the itch!

We see a lot of itchy horse's and the most common cause is sweet itch. This is an allergic reaction to the saliva of *Culicoides* commonly called midges. It can be intensely itchy with horses affected rubbing their hair off and even causing open sores. It usually affects the areas where *Culicoides* bite which is along the top line, especially the mane and tail. It can also be on the belly of the horse. Horses with sweet itch can also be allergic to other types of biting insect as well.



The best way to manage these horses is by avoiding the flies/midges and there are many ways to do this. Firstly, using good quality fly rugs which prevent the flies landing to bite. Keeping horses stabled when flies are at their most active during the day and at dusk, so turning horses out at night instead of during the day can make a difference. Fields with ponds or streams will have more insects so avoid using these at the height of summer where possible. Fly repellents are also important and permethrin-based ones are very effective. One we commonly use is Deosect. Regular application of a good fly repellent is very important this is made easier with Deosect as it only needs to be applied fortnightly and as it is diluted a small bottle goes a long way!



With some horses' these measures aren't enough and they need veterinary treatment. Often this is because the horse has rubbed itself causing more inflammation and therefore further itchiness. The most common treatments are steroid based creams or sprays to reduce the itchiness and inflammation of the skin and anti-histamines to reduce the allergic reaction. Specialised shampoos can also help soothe the skin and treat secondary bacterial infections if they are present. The sooner we break the cycle of itchiness the better for the horse.



Sweet itch isn't the only cause of itchy skin in horses though it is very common. We regularly see and treat horses with bacterial skin infections, leg-mites and lice. All of these require specialised medication or management and it can be hard to identify the cause of the itchiness straight away or it can be a combination of problems. But careful treatment and tests to find the root of the problem means we have a good outcome in managing these cases so they don't rub themselves raw every year.

We also get horses who are allergic to things other than insects and the several tests to work out what they are allergic to are available. One is a blood test which measure a horse's response to different allergens. The allergens used include pollens, animal skin cells, grasses and insects. Identifying exactly what a horse is allergic to can allow us to avoid them. This avoidance can make a dramatic difference. However, it also allows us to formulate tailor made immunotherapy which can be used to desensitise horses to the substances they are allergic to, this is a series of injection over several months but can have a dramatic effect on the allergic response.

Overall, there are many things which make our horses itch but we have many options for treating them and can help stop them hurting themselves scratching.


There is now a sweet itch vaccine, which we do have in stock. The horse will need 2 doses 2 weeks apart.



For more information and prices please contact the office on 01260 280800

EQUINE CLINIC

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