

# Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



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March 2022

## Castration Clinic

We are offering a Castration Clinic at Somerford Park Farm during March and April...

### Why Do It?

Unless you intend to use your colt for breeding we recommend getting him castrated. Geldings are far easier to handle and less unpredictable than stallions. Owning a stallion is a responsibility which cannot be taken lightly and will require suitable handling facilities and staff. Many livery yards will not allow stallions due to lack of facilities. Standing castration can be done if your colt is:

- Over 12hh high- we need to see and reach underneath them!
- Between 6 months and 2 years old
- Has two testicles descended

Smaller ponies, Older stallions or where testicles are not fully descended will need to be castrated under a general anaesthetic. Please call the office to discuss this.

### How we do it

Firstly we examine and sedate the colt and give pain relief and antibiotics before surgery.

When they are sedated we inject local anaesthetic into the testicles so they cannot feel the surgery.

An incision is made and a surgical instrument called an emasculator is used to cut and crush the tissues leading down to the testicles

Your vet may prescribe oral pain relief and antibiotics after surgery.

We advise turnout to reduce swelling by keeping the gelding moving.

### Signs to watch out for

- Bleeding- some bleeding is normal but call your vet if you are concerned
- Swelling- this should reduce with walking and is usually mild.
- Tissue protruding from wounds- This should be checked by a vet if you are concerned.

Castration is a routine surgical procedure and complications are relatively uncommon and generally mild. If you have any concerns then always contact us to discuss this.



## CASTRATION PROMOTION

**MARCH AND APRIL 2022 - £180 inc VAT\***

- Offer includes Clinical Exam, all drugs\*, castration procedure\*\*
  - New and existing customers
- Colts of 2 years or less with 2 descended testicles
  - IN CLINIC ONLY
- Procedure carried out under standing sedation
  - Payment on the day
  - Limited slots available

Please contact the office on 01260 280800 to book your space now!

\*excluding tetanus anti-toxin (only given if your colt is not covered for tetanus before/ at time of procedure)

\*\*any other aftercare will be charged at our usual rates

## Somerford Clinic – COVID Update

We are very conscious of the changing world in relation to COVID and that now a lot of places are allowing people into buildings etc. During lockdown there have been a number of internal changes at the clinic, and as a result of this, as well as keeping everyone safe, we are still not in a position to allow people to come into the building as they used to.

We appreciate that the window arrangement is not ideal and there are plans in place to improve this, but for the foreseeable future we will be continuing to serve visitors in this way. At least the weather is getting warmer and hopefully we can enjoy the sunshine outside!

# Winter weight management top tips Part 2

## 1. Minimise rugging

As lovely as it is to have your horse wrapped up in a big rug on a cold night its often not needed! Horses have a much wider thermoneutral zone than we do, from 0oc to 25oc – this is the range of temperatures between which they feel comfortable. Horses produce a lot of internal heat from fermentation process in their guts and this keeps them producing energy that keeps them warm and their coat is designed to hold warmth. Unfortunately, feeling your horses' extremities is a poor indication of whether they need a rug or not as they are able to divert blood away from these areas. In conclusion, unless clipped, living out 24/7 or in poor body condition your horse is unlikely to need a rug. In very over-weight horses clipping their coats can also be a good way to encourage weight loss.

## 2. Exercise

Regular exercise helps weight loss and improves insulin sensitivity which is important as insulin dysregulation can cause of laminitis. Interval training, pole work and canter work can be great ways to increase their heart rate and burn fat. Movement can also be encouraged in the field through the use of track system around the perimeter of the field.

## 3. Check for underlying endocrine disease

Equine Metabolic Syndrome and Equine Cushings Syndrome are the two most common causes of laminitis and both are manageable with correct diagnosis and treatment. Thankfully in most cases diagnosis is straight forward with one or two blood samples which can often be done on one of our zone visits! Additionally for horses who have not previously been tested for equine cushings, they can receive the laboratory fees for free (a blood sample collection fee +/- visit fee will be charged).

## 4. Have a summer plan

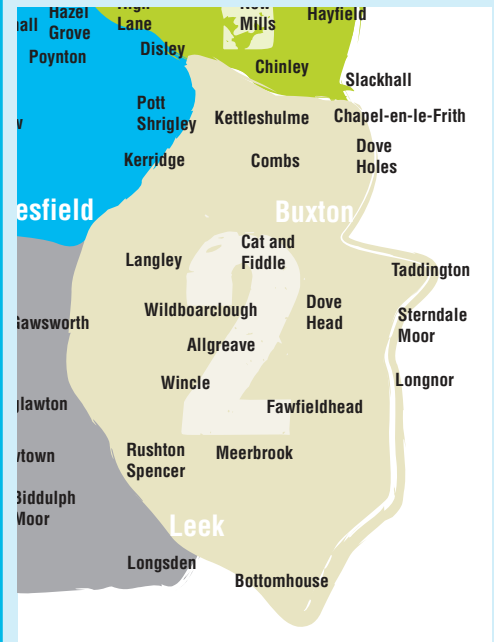
How can you restrict their grass intake? Unfortunately, studies have shown restricting the time isn't an effective way of restricting their intake as horses soon adapt and gorge when out for shorter periods. Grazing muzzles can be really effective and horses soon get used to them. They allow horses to be out for a normal length of time but significantly reduce their intake. However, they are not suitable if turned out 24/7, we only recommend them if the horse spends part of their time stabled without the muzzle. In other cases, strip grazing or turning out in a bare paddock or sand pen can be effective way of restricting intake without keeping them stabled unnecessarily.



# Good news for our clients in the Buxton area

Due to popular demand we will now be holding weekly zones in this area rather than fortnightly. As a reminder you can book quick appointments such as vaccinations, blood tests, microchips, passport sketches, meds check ups and **also routine dental appointments (this applies to this area only – others have their specific dental zone day).**

Please call the office on 01260 280 800 to book an appointment.



## EQUINE CLINIC

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