

# Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



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February 2020

## Client Evenings and Charity News



Love is in the air! There are still places available on our reproduction evening taking place on **Wednesday 12th February** at the clinic at Somerford Park. During the evening we will be covering the whole repro cycle from selecting a stallion, through the examinations and scans involved before and during pregnancy, the insemination procedure, through to birth of the foal, and early care.

Our limb dissection evening took place in January, which involved small groups looking at different parts of the horses limbs. We had several interactive stations which went over a range of topics including wound management, shoeing, and common injuries of the fetlock, foot and hock. Many of the clients enjoyed having a go at stapling and stitching wounds! We were lucky to have Mike Randles, farrier, join us to share his vast experience and highlight the importance of the farrier and vet working closely together to get the best outcome for the horse. The night was incredibly well received and everyone really enjoyed themselves. We may repeat the evening later in 2020.

We are always very keen to raise money for worthwhile causes. Our Limb Dissection evening has raised £250 for the North West Air Ambulance

## Horses for Hope

Many of you will be aware of the Horses for Hope dressage competition that was held at Somerford in aid of the Australian Bushfire Crisis.

Here is Louise Pailor, our Operations Manager, and Bertie sporting the Aussie theme. Blue Martin, one of our clients, was the star attraction – who over the last 12 months has been through surgery, and re-hab with us, and unfortunately had numerous complications, but is now fighting fit, and was ridden by Dutch Olympic Event Rider, Andrew Heffernan in his top hat and tails! Blue's mum, Mariae had spent a lot of time with us at the clinic over the last year keeping us supplied with cakes and biscuits – always very welcome!



## Dental Zone

Just to make you aware, we now take a £20 deposit to secure a place on the dental zone, to try to reduce the number of cancellations.

## Herpes Update

As I am sure you are aware there has been a recent outbreak of herpes (EHV-1) in the South of the country. We thought it would be useful to talk a little more about the condition and signs to look out for.

The virus has the ability to remain in a hidden form within the horse and become active without warning. The extent of emergence varies between individuals and may occur in a variety of stressful situations including with travelling and mixing of horses.

The disease can strike any horse at any time, causing emotional, as well as financial strains, on horse owners and breeders around the world.

The most common types of Equine Herpes Virus are EHV-1 and EHV-4.

EHV-1 can cause abortion in pregnant mares, still birth or birth of weak and sick foals, as well as respiratory disease including snotty nose, cough, fever and reduced appetite, and occasionally neurological disease

EHV-4 usually causes respiratory disease but occasionally it can result in abortion and more rarely neurological disease.

EHV, just like cold sores, chicken pox and shingles in humans, lies dormant in the horse after it recovers from infection and will periodically recur.

Whilst there is a vaccination available against some strains we would only actively encourage this in pregnant mares. If you are at all worried about any symptoms your horse may be displaying, please do not hesitate to call us and talk to one of the vets.

## Reminders

Just a gentle reminder to everyone to please make sure that you call us to update your details if you or your horse move address, change telephone number etc. so that we can ensure our records are up to date. Whilst we do check details over the telephone for every appointment, it could save time, especially in an emergency if we already have the correct information on record.

If you can also please make sure that when making a BACs payment that you use the bank details on the bottom of the invoice as these have recently changed. The details are:

**HSBC UK Sort Code: 40-42-18 Account Number 12724219**  
Reference: 2027+ surname + horse name

# Influenza Update

We are approaching a year since equine influenza hit the headlines, and throughout 2019 its prevalence has continued. Therefore it is still considered gold standard care that competing horses and ponies, or those that are travelling regularly to events such as pony club meets, fun rides etc, are vaccinated every 6 months. This is because levels of immunity will drop in some horses between 6 and 12 months. The yearly boosters (as long as the primary start up course has been completed) still provide adequate coverage for horses not at an increased risk.

You may notice that we have changed the vaccination that we use to Proteqflu as this vaccination contains the strains which are currently most prevalent in the UK, as recommended by the World Organisation for Animal Health. This means that your horse has received the most up to date protection against equine flu.

Pictured below is a nice guide from the Animal Health Trust for owners to reduce their risks of contracting the disease.

<https://www.aht.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Defra-2019-Q2.pdf>

In unvaccinated horses the classic signs of equine influenza include:

- **A harsh dry cough**
- **Pyrexia**
- **Laboured breathing**

This is typically accompanied by lethargy, depression and a loss of appetite. Horses may also develop a mild serous or mucoid **nasal discharge**.

The infection will usually spread quickly through a naïve/unvaccinated horse population with close to 100% infection rate.

Horses that have only partial protection, e.g. due to irregular vaccination or the use of outdated vaccine strains, will typically show signs of milder non-specific respiratory disease.

Possible infected or positively tested animals should be isolated and the vet can go through good protocols for this with you.

If you are in any doubt of your status, wish to restart your vaccinations or book a 6 month booster please call the office on 01260 280 800. Don't forget! If you want to get booked onto the zone days for a free visit fee you will have to book in advance to get a slot.

## Following your vaccination, we advise that you:

- Only work your horse lightly for 2-3 days after his vaccination (Hacking, light schooling).
- Check the rules of any competition planned as you may not be permitted to compete within 7 days of the vaccination.
- If you notice that your horse seems unwell or you are concerned about him after he is vaccinated, call us for further advice.

**AHT**  
Animal Health Trust

## Animal Health Trust helpful guide to attending equine events

The following advice is designed to provide some help to horse owners and competitors to reduce the risk, both to your horse and other horses, acquiring and spreading equine flu through attending any equine event.

- Ensure your horse has been vaccinated within 6 months and allow 1 week between vaccination and going to the show
- If you have any concerns about your horse's health (fever, cough, lethargy etc.) do not go to the competition
- Do not let your horse graze at the competition, an infectious horse may have grazed in that field too!
- Do not share water or feed buckets or use communal water troughs
- Do not share tack, such as bits and bridles
- Don't let your horse make contact with other horses
- Ensure if you're stabling away, that the stable has been cleaned and disinfected - including feed mangers and water drinkers before you use it
- Isolate your horse when returning to your home premises. Carefully monitor incl. taking its rectal temperature twice daily. Any concerns call your vet