

Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



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January 2020

Charity



We all took part in Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 13th December in aid of Save the Children! As you can see we are all looking very festive, including Echo the dog!

In addition, Susan, from our reception team has been selling a whole host of fantastic home-made chutneys, jams, Christmas cakes and decorations/gifts at the clinic all in aid of Alzheimer's, a charity very close to all our hearts. So far over £100 has been raised.



Our Bank Details

Just to let you know our bank details have changed – the new ones are detailed on the bottom of your invoice. If you are making a payment on line please ensure these details are updated and use the following reference:

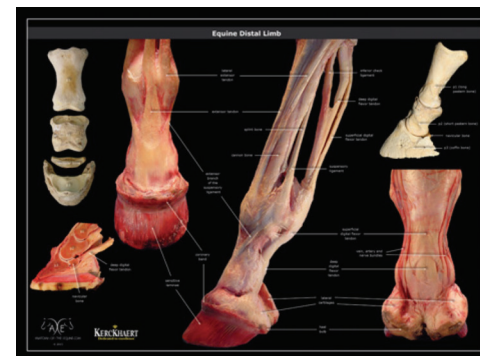
2027 "surname" "horse name"

Client Evening – Leg Dissection

This client evening will take place on 28th January, there are still a few places available, so please do call the office on 01260 280800 to book your place. We are asking for a £10 donation to a charity to secure your place.

This will take place at the Equine Clinic at Somerford Park, meeting from 6pm for light refreshments, with the event starting at 6.30pm. This will be a very interactive session in small groups therefore numbers are limited.

During the sessions we will be dissecting real limbs (so not for the faint hearted!) allowing visualisation of key anatomical structures. We will look at both soft tissue and bone anatomy of the hock, fetlock and foot, focussing on areas that can become problematic, how we diagnose these and what we can do to help.



Coming soon... don't forget our repro evening on 12th February where you can find all the information you need to know about breeding and how to enhance your chances of having a foal in 2021. Call the office now to reserve your place.

Worming

As we are in the winter months, worming advice should be focused on the management of tapeworm, encysted redworm and bots, none of which can be measured in a worm egg count therefore this time of year is not ideal for assessing faecal samples.



Encysted Small Redworm (Cyathostomes)

Small red worms are the most common and dangerous parasitic threat to horses health. They reproduce in large numbers and the larvae burrow into the gut wall where they can hibernate (encyst) and can remain dormant inside a horse for up to two years. Large burdens of encysted

redworm that emerge from the gut, in the early spring, can cause diarrhoea, colic and can even be fatal, especially in young horses.

Encysted redworm should be targeted once yearly in late autumn or early winter using a single dose of Moxidectin (**Equest/Equest Pramox**) or a 5 day course of Fenbendazole (**Panacur 5 day guard**). However there is known resistance in small redworm to Fenbendazole.

Tapeworm

Tapeworm do not show up in faecal worm egg counts so therefore should be targeted twice yearly (usually spring & autumn) with praziquantel (**Equest pramox, Equimax, Noropraz, Eqvalan Duo**) or a double dose of Pyrantel (**Strongid P**).



There is a blood test and saliva test which can be used to test for tapeworm in horses, which can be used yearly in spring time to detect levels.



Bots

Bots do not show up in faecal worm counts but should be treated annually after the 'first frost'. Most wormers treat bots.

Those who are on our worming programme will have received a praziquantel wormer as part of the package, along with the sample pots and a saliva test. There is also now a blood test which can be used to test for tapeworm. We would advise using the saliva test for tapeworm in spring time, and next faecal sample to be sent in at the end of winter/beginning of spring. If you have any questions about the worming programme, or would like to sign up to it please ring the clinic on 01260 280 800.

Impaction Colic

With winter well and truly here we have seen a sudden increase in the number of horses suffering from a specific type of colic- impaction colic. We hope by sharing some basic facts about impaction colic we can help you reduce the risk of your own horse developing an impaction colic.

What is an impaction colic?

An impaction colic occurs when digested material builds up in a part of the horse's gut and causes an obstruction. The passage of any

further digested food is blocked and with time the blocked material becomes dehydrated.

It commonly occurs at specific parts of the horse's gut where the gut naturally narrows.

Why does it occur?

Commonly an impaction colic occurs due to a change in management of the horse.

Dehydration, inactivity and altered gut motility are all risk factors. Classically at this time of year we are stabling our horses for increasing lengths of time, exercising them less and altering their diets to contain a larger volume of hay/haylage which is much drier than grass. All these changes can increase a horse's risk of an impaction colic.

What are the clinical signs?

- Smaller volume of faeces or no faeces passed
- Drier faeces
- Reduced appetite
- Colic signs including pawing, flank watching, restlessness, increased lying time.

How can we reduce the risk of our horse getting an impaction colic?

- Ensure ample fresh clean water is available at all times
- Provide a salt lick in the stables to encourage water intake
- If facilities allow, turnout out as much as possible throughout the winter, or if your horse has to be stabled for long periods of time try in hand walking them regularly.
- Soak hay to increase water intake.
- Feed small sloppy feeds to increase water intake and stimulate gut motility.
- Feed several small feeds throughout the day rather than 2 larger feeds morning and evening.
- Monitor the number of faeces your horse passes in a set period of time e.g. overnight. Take note if the consistency appears to change e.g. firmer, softer.


As always, if you are worried that your horse may be showing signs of colic, call us to speak to a vet/ arrange a visit as soon as possible.

EQUINE CLINIC

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