



Icknield Equine Clinic Newsletter



Part of  The Icknield Veterinary Group **01582 471177**

The Grass is Growing!

(At last!!!)

Spring/ Summer 2013

News in Brief:

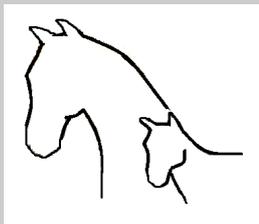
Worm Egg Counts

Spring is tapeworm time again! Remember that worm egg counts don't pick up tapeworm. As long as you are up to date with tapeworming then egg counts are a great way to prevent over-medication your horse for redworms. They can also be used to check if the red worms are showing signs of resistance to the wormers you're using (which could prevent damage to your horse and save money in the long run). Unsure? Phone us to have a chat!



Clipping?

Getting too hot to get competition fit but scared of clippers? Sedation may be used, but before sedation can be used, your horse's heart must be checked by a vet. There are 2 products that can be given without the vet present if a health check has been done previously. Ask us for more details.



As the weather gets warmer, the days longer, and the grass greener, we once more have a problem on our hands. We keep hearing about endocrine laminitis (such as Cushings and Equine Metabolic Syndrome), but we mustn't forget that carbohydrate overload, particularly feeding lush grass, is a classic cause of laminitis, particularly, but not exclusively, in native breed ponies. Laminitis is inflammation, and pain, caused by disruption of the interlocking laminae of the hoof wall. This disruption can allow downward movement of the pedal bone within the casing of the hoof - something that must be confirmed by xrays. Xrays are usually done on the yard (subject to power supply), and with our new processor system the digital image may be seen there and then! We then measure the angles back at the practice to confirm how severe (or not) the damage is.

The best way to prevent carbohydrate overload laminitis is to minimize the access to grass and other carbohydrates. Whether this means wearing a muzzle in a large field or strip grazing, sometimes we need to be a bit mean to be truly kind! If you have concerns about your horse looking 'footy' or are worried, get your vet to check!

Concerned about endocrine laminitis? Boehringer are offering free tests for previously undiagnosed patients. Download your free voucher until the end of June <http://www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk/certificate-form/>

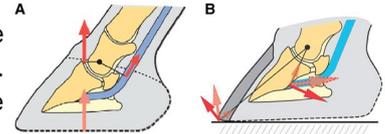


Image from AAEP

Worm Egg Counts! New Offer!

1 sample £10 inc VAT
2+ samples £9 each inc VAT
5+ samples £8 each inc VAT

Samples must be received together to qualify for lower prices.

A Great Client Evening!

A big **THANK YOU** to all those that came and joined us for our evening talks on 22nd February. Dr Debbie Archer (as seen on TV!!) gave a very interesting talk on Colic and brought an array of interesting items, such as a giant enterolith and a rather large endotracheal tube! We hope that it was an interesting and educational experience!

We had some great feedback and look forward to holding another based around some suggested topics. If you have any topics you would like covered please let us know:
ivgdun@fwi.co.uk
or find Icknield Equine Clinic on Facebook!



Chestnut Lodge Clinic -
Save the visit fee and bring your horse to us!
(Check with your vet that your horse is fit to travel)

Need a vaccination or routine check up?
Why not try our

FREE VISIT DAYS

(NW)		(NE)
	Silsoe	
WEDNESDAY	M1	TUESDAY
Leighton Buzzard		Lilley
<hr/>		
	A505	
(SW) Dunstable		Luton (SE)
THURSDAY		MONDAY
Flamstead		Harpenden

Individually tailored equine services in order to provide the best veterinary care for you and your horse 24 hours, 365 days of the year in Herts, Beds and Bucks.

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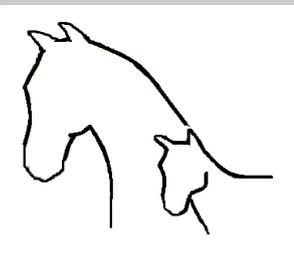
Dentistry.

Horses teeth continue to erupt into old age, so the way they wear down is very important to ensure they can continue to eat properly. For most horses an annual check up is sufficient so why not book in for a dental exam with your annual booster? We can also use our power float for more tricky teeth problems!*

*sedation is required

Does your horse have repeat medication?

It is a requirement that the vet checks the medication and the progress of your equine companion at LEAST every 6 months, or more frequently if doses need adjusting. Make sure you book your check ups in plenty of time for your next repeat prescription- particularly if used with our **FREE VISIT DAYS**. See map for details!



Pus in The Foot

Pus in the foot can be a very frustrating condition to treat. Commonly pus in the foot occurs due to a penetrating injury, for example a stone to the white line, sole or frog which introduces bacteria but hoof wall cracks and even concussion or bruising can precipitate abscessation. The casing of the hoof offers bacteria that have got underneath, an environment in which to breed and multiply. Lameness can range from mild to severe- sometimes even non-weight bearing. Response to percussion or pinching with hoof testers indicates an area of soreness within the foot. In instances where lameness is severe, fracture must also be a consideration.

Once a foot abscess is suspected your vet will look for an area to explore and track towards the abscess, hopefully finding it, releasing pus, and relieving the pressure. In some instances foot abscess are deeply seated and can not be found on first examination, requiring time to build up before they can be fully lanced. A tract will be dug as far as is suitable, your horse's foot will then be poulticed and looked at again after 48-72 hours.

In rare cases, a foot abscess may be present that presents as a mild lameness, with no obvious indication of its source within the foot. Your vet may then elect to nerve block the foot to confirm suspicion and then radiograph to confirm location. In some cases the abscess may be located high up the hoof wall requiring a dorsal wall resection in order to drain it.

Although a foot abscess is painful, anti-inflammatories and antibiotics are rarely prescribed, except in instances where swelling is grossly affecting the horse's limb. Medication can mask when an abscess has failed to drain fully.

Whilst there may be temporary relief of clinical signs in the short term, there is a risk of further abscess development later. If your horse is showing signs of lameness, we are always happy to discuss your concerns.



Horse Health Plans

A choice of **four different plans** to suit you and your horse. .

Plan 1: Happy Hacker £99 Save 17%!

Routine vaccination
Routine dental check + rasping.
2 Worm egg counts and worming advice
Clinical examination including eyes, heart, and lungs

Plan 2: Riding Horse £149 Save over 25%!

Routine vaccination
Routine dental check + rasping. 2 Worm egg counts and worming advice
Clinical examination including eyes, heart, and lungs
Blood sample- biochemistry
Soundness assessment and weight check

Plan 3: Competition Horse £299 Save over 28%!

Routine vaccination
Routine dental check + rasping. 2 Worm egg counts and worming advice
Clinical examination including eyes, heart, and lungs
Blood sample- Biochemistry IVG Haematology PTDS
Soundness assessment and weight check
Radiographic assessment inc 4 films In clinic

****NEW** Plan 4: Senior Horse £135 Save 20%**

Clinical exam including heart, eyes, lungs
Arthritis Examination inc. external examination of the joints and walk/trot up plus flexion tests.
Dental check including rasping (not inc. sedation and use of the power float)
Comprehensive Blood Profile inc. kidneys and liver
Cushings Blood Testing
(The fee includes Lab Fees, Postage Fees and Sample Processing Fees)
Medication and further treatment is not included.

Extra benefits include 5% off wormers

See the website or pick up a leaflet for further details

LATEST NEWS....

Finally after several months both Adele and Verity are back full time!! Adele suffered a fractured collar bone before Christmas, and had to have surgery to repair it. Thankfully she is now back in one piece. Having gradually built up stamina after a stint in intensive care, Verity is also back full time, so we look forward to having a full team once more!

Looking forward to the summer ahead!!!