



Icknield Equine Clinic Newsletter

LU6 3AS

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



Spring 2012

News in Brief:

It's tape-worm time!

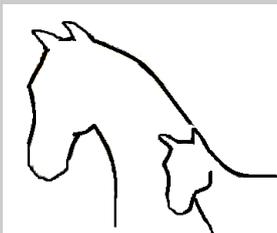
Spring is here so remember to include a tape-wormer on your horse's shopping list. Tapeworm can only be measured by blood test and is not picked up in worm egg counts so be sure your horse gets treated this Spring and again in the Autumn.

Other 4-legged friends?

We can visit them whilst on the yard- just make sure you let us know in advance!

Does your horse have repeat medication?

As vets we have a duty of care towards your animal and so are obliged to check the medication and the progress of your equine companion -at appropriate intervals, which may be more frequent 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!



Spring is Coming!

Spring is on the way, with lighter mornings and fewer torches needed to get around the yard after work each night, things are starting to look up! Remember that Spring can also bring laminitis problems for ponies (and horses) when the high-sugar lush spring grass comes through suddenly. It takes about 72 hours from the moment the horse or pony encounters the 'challenge' to the moment you as the owner will notice the characteristic sore-footed stance, shifting weight, depressed attitude or unwillingness to move. Swift veterinary attention can help to keep these ponies' pain controlled. In the first few days, frog supports and increasing blood flow in the hooves can be very useful tools against pedal bone rotation. Laminitis is the term given for inflammation of the laminae of the hoof wall. Primary and secondary laminae keep the hoof capsule and soft tissue together, supporting the bone inside. Disruption may mean the bone moves- this might not be noticeable from the outside and xrays



may be required to see what is going on. The long term prognosis depends on the degree of movement of the bone. Lush grass isn't the only trigger for laminitis- infections after foaling, colic, frosty grass on sunny mornings, other carbohydrate overloads, EMS (see over), Cushings (see over) and concussion are some of the other causes. Management of these ponies is vital and prevention is better than cure so if you think your pony is 'at risk' then restricted grazing and /or a grazing muzzle may be required.

Horse Health Plans

A choice of **three different plans** to suit you and your horse:

Plan 1: Happy Hacker £99 Save Over 20%!

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

Plan 2: Riding Horse £149 Save 30%!

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

Plan 3: Competition Horse £299 Save Over 30%!

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

Extra benefits include 5% off wormers throughout the year

Visit fee is not included, but the offers may be used in conjunction with Free Visit Days

See the website or pick up a leaflet for further details

OPEN DAY 30TH JUNE!

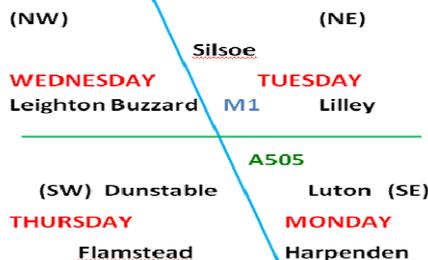
We're having an open day at our clinic, Chestnut Lodge and you're all invited!

Starting at 1pm, the afternoon will be to raise money and awareness for **Horsewatch** and **Riding for the Disabled**. There will also be displays, tombola and games, talks from the vets and most importantly, a few things to drink and nibble at on the way! Talks will be announced nearer the time- check the website: www.icknieldvetgroup.co.uk/equines

Tickets for talks will be free. To register, call us on **01582 471177** (tell your friends at the yard to come along too- the more the merrier!)

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

FREE VISIT DAYS



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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Microchips?

Don't leave it until the last minute! Remember your new foal needs a microchip before 31st December or within 6 months of birth (whichever is later).

Clipping?

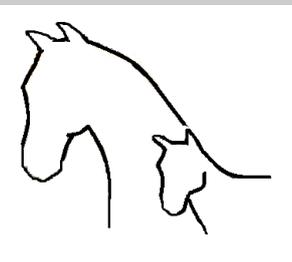
Still winter-wooly and too hot to get competition fit? Scared of clippers? Before sedation can be used, your horse's heart must be checked by a vet. There are 2 products that can be given without the vet present when used, if a health check has been done. Ask for more details.

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 when using the power float.



Not shifting that winter coat?

Is there a medical reason...?

Pars Pituitary Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID), or '**Cushings**' is a problem seen mostly in horses over the age of 15, although it is possible to occur sooner. The typical symptoms of not losing the winter coat, curly brittle hairs, 'puffy' eyes, sweating, increased thirst and bouts of laminitis for 'no apparent reason' are seen due to an increase in production of their own internal steroids. We can use daily medication to help keep this over-production under control. 'Prasend' has now been licensed for use in horses. A blood test is required to confirm PPID and regular checks are needed to ensure the correct dosage is given. Once under control, many owners see their horse or pony have 'a new lease of life' and some patients can continue on medication happily for many years. Without medication, over time, these horses will have worsened symptoms and muscle loss- eventually euthanasia is often the kindest option. So if your horse is showing any signs, then call and we can examine your horse to find out if PPID might be likely and test to see if medication is required.



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

Foaling Time!

As more and more little ones hit the ground there is much to think about- from colostrum and clean umbilical cords, to the mare's health and whether to breed again? It is essential to ensure the foal receives sufficient colostrum in the first hours of life- if in doubt we offer quick and easy tests to check your foal has enough antibodies to help fight infection in their first weeks. Remember that 'type' and 'purpose' of horses bred is vital for their futures so take your time when making the decision to breed. If breeding is the right thing for you and your mare, we can offer reproductive advice including fertility scans and hormone treatment to help give you the most successful outcome. Once in foal we are happy to do further pregnancy scans to monitor the progress of the foal. Call us to find out more.



Equine Metabolic Syndrome

Equine Metabolic Syndrome, or EMS, is a recently-recognised problem that occurs in overweight ponies and horses. They may have a 'cresty' appearance or uneven fat distribution, poor quality hoof production, bouts of laminitis 'for no reason'. The symptoms are due to a high resting level of insulin. The animals can be blood tested for high levels of insulin to confirm the condition, ideally after overnight starving, but a haynet can be given in the evening. High insulin alone has several mechanisms for causing laminitis. Treatment is focussed at a combination of exercise and diet-based weight loss. Medication is available to help to decrease insulin production and increase the body's sensitivity to the insulin produced. This helps to reduce the risk of further laminitic episodes during the time taken to achieve the weight loss required to return the insulin production back to normal function. Blood tests are done at regular intervals to check the progress and to ensure the pony is out of the 'danger zone'. If it is not possible to wean off the medication, then medication can be life-long.

Do you have a story to tell? We'd love to hear from you! Email us with pictures and your story and a selection will be put onto the website. The best story will win a prize and feature in the next Icknield Equine Clinic Newsletter.