



Ickniel Equine Clinic Newsletter



Part of  The Ickniel Veterinary Group

01582 471177

Autumn/ Winter 2012

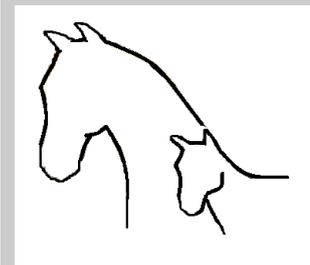
News in Brief:

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!

Worm Egg Counts

It's tapeworm time again! Remember that worm egg counts don't pick up tapeworm, however they are a great way to prevent over-medicating your horse for redworms. They can also be used to check if the worms are showing signs of resistance to the wormers you're using (which could save money and prevent damage to your horse in the long run).



Winter Time!

As the wet and windy weather gets even wetter, the fields are beginning to look the familiar brown-muddy colour once more. Our favourite friends are waiting for us by the oh-so-muddy gate ready to come in every evening. Mud Fever can be a real issue for some horses, with an increased risk in those with white hooves, and/or legs. Mud Fever is caused by a specific bacterium in the soil, so although not every horse in the field will be susceptible, if that bacteria is found in the soil in that field.

There are several ways to help keep Mud Fever at bay. Firstly, ensure that the mud is not left contacting the skin, either by hosing the legs off or by brushing away dried mud. Antibacterial washes such as Hibiscrub™ can help to keep bacteria under control. Drying the legs after cleaning off the mud is important as the bacteria thrive in the warm wet conditions found against the skin. Heavily feathered horses often suffer more, as the hair holds the moisture. Mites can also be a problem in the winter months when the winter coat provides them with an ideal environment. Sadly sometimes we do need to clip the feathers in order to relieve these problems, along with the appropriate medication.

Care must be taken that the infection does not penetrate the leg further and cause a more serious and painful condition-cellulitis. If in doubt, get your vet to check!

A SUNNY OPEN DAY!

A big THANK YOU to all those that came and joined us for our open day on 30th June, and supported Riding for The Disabled and Horse-watch so generously- we raised over £180 in donations! Our Guest Speakers delivered some thought-provoking talks, and there was an excellent variety of cakes courtesy of Denise! Congratulations also go to the quiz winner Mrs. Whittaker, we hope you enjoyed the bottle of champagne!

Most of all thank you to everyone who took part, we hope that it was an interesting and educational experience!

For a few photos and more about the clinic, please visit our web pages: www.icknielvetgroup.co.uk/equines

Client Talks!!

We're having a client evening and you're all invited!

7.30pm on 22nd February 2013.

Toddington Village Hall, LU5 6AN

Talks will include-

Colic-is it ever not an emergency?
Sweet Itch-Prevention & management.

check the website:
www.icknielvetgroup.co.uk/equines

Or Find us on 

Tickets for talks will be free. To register, call

us on **01582 471177**

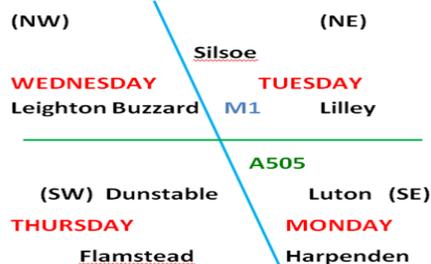
(tell your friends at the yard to come along too- the more the merrier!)



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



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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Clipping?

Getting too hot with a winter coat 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.

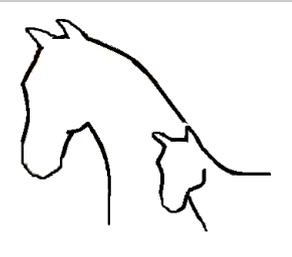
Microchips?

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).

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, particularly when trying to keep the weight on through the winter months. 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



Recurrent Airway

Obstruction

(RAO, formally COPD)

Getting to the end of last years hay, stabling your horse and noticing your horse is coughing more? Horses with a cough or intolerance to exercise of more than 3 months, but that are otherwise normal may have RAO. RAO generally occurs in horses aged 7+ and can vary in severity. Horses with prolonged laboured breathing may develop a 'heave line'. This happens when the muscles involved in breathing bulk-up so that a distinct line is seen along the abdomen sides. The airways become hyper-reactive to dusts or spores and so become narrowed. They also produce excess mucus and together with the decreased lung function, provide an excellent environment for secondary infections to develop. Environmental management of these cases is paramount in order to get a successful outcome. Avoidance of trigger factors is key. This may mean changing feeds, soaking hay for 20-30 minutes, having dust-free bedding such as paper, or living outside. There are a small number of horses that show these symptoms in summer at pasture. In these cases, part of the management is then to bring them in! Medication can be given to relieve the symptoms so if you think your horse is showing signs then be sure to ask your vet.

Horse Health Plans

A choice of **three different plans** to suit you and your horse. Spread the cost over 12 months or pay at time of registration.

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

Sweet Itch Season Will Be Back Soon!

Just because your horse has never suffered from sweet itch, does not mean that it might not in the future. Sweet itch is an over reaction to midge bites often seen as rubbed raw manes and tails, as the horse or pony itches and rubs repeatedly. If your four legged friend is a seasoned sufferer, there is still hope. Avoidance is better than cure, so ask your vet about treatment options BEFORE it gets warmer and the midges and flies are back in force.

LATEST NEWS.... After her stint in intensive care due to Guillain-Barré Syndrome, Verity has returned! Although not yet back full-time and initially confined to the practice, she hopes to continue her recovery and be back to normal duties over the next few months!