

UPDATES IN BRIEF

- Focus on vettings
- Cliffe Equine is now an RCVS Tier 2 accredited practice and a BEVA registered clinic for AI
- Special offers on Cavalesse
- Cliffe Equine News
- Zone Visits & Sweet itch
- Microchipping: new regulations

NORMAL CLINICAL PARAMETERS

Heart rate	28 - 40 beats/min
Resp. rate	8 - 16 breaths/min
Body temp.	37-38°C 99-100.5°F
Gum colour	Pale pink & moist
Capillary refill	Less than 2 seconds

www.cliffequine.co.uk (01323) 815120—24hr veterinary care

Focus on Vettings...

Owning a horse can be a big investment in time, money & emotion. Unfortunately, horses seldom come with a money back guarantee. That's why it's so important to investigate the overall health & condition as well as highlight & assess any potential problems the chosen horse may have prior to purchase.



The Pre-Purchase Examination or "vetting" as it is more commonly known, is a set procedure use to perform this assessment. The end result of the vetting is not a "pass" or "fail", but provides you with information regarding any existing medical problems and enables you to discuss these issues, so

that you may make an informed purchase decision.

It is very important that your vet knows what the work the horse is intended for, as well as any concerns you may already have about the horse. The vetting is done with that specific use in mind; so while a horse lamed through injury may be suitable for breeding it is not for ridden work & likewise a horse with skin blemishes may be fine for hunting, but not for showing.

It is recommended that you are present at the examination. This allows the vet to discuss and show the findings to you at the time.

There are two types of vetting; the 2 stage & the 5 stage exams. The 5 stage examination is recommended for all cases unless the horse's condition precludes this, e.g. immaturity/pregnancy.

The stages one to five are described as follows:

Stage 1: Preliminary examination. A methodical examination of the horse at rest. An assessment

is made regarding the general condition, health & appearance of the horse. This includes assessment of the eyes, heart, lungs & limbs.

Stage 2: Trot up and foot exam. The gait is assessed at walk & trot on hard ground. Flexion tests may be performed.

Stage 3: Strenuous exercise. This may be ridden or lunged & allows examination of the wind.

Stage 4: A period of rest. The heart and respiratory rate should return to normal.

Stage 5: The second trot up. This assesses the horse for lameness following exercise.

A blood sample is routinely taken at the end. This is stored and may be used to detect drugs in the blood stream.

Most insurance companies will require a copy of the vetting certificate before a policy can be started. Some of the findings may have implications on your policy and this will be discussed with you. For more information come to our client evening!



Cliffe Equine Clinic News

We are happy to say that the current team of vets, nurses and office staff has remained unchanged over the last few months. Wendy and Natalie have both settled into Cliffe Equine very well indeed, leaving us to wonder how we ever coped before!

Luke Poore has been with us for quite some time now and has become a familiar face to many of you. He has been working well

alongside Egbert to strengthen and develop the orthopaedic side of the clinic. This is enabling us to work up the lameness and surgical cases efficiently, without waiting too long for appointment times.

Penny has been getting back out on the road doing some dental work again, resuming a more clinical role after her spell in the office. I am sure all of you will be happy to see her on the yard in the not to distant future.

Good news in the clinic too as

romance was blossoming in the winter months with both Emma Farrow and Imogen Silhan-Sutton getting engaged to their partners. Emma and Richard are tying the knot locally in April 2010, whereas Imogen and Gareth are braving the gales in North Wales and have set the date for Christmas Eve this year!

Finally, we wish hearty congratulations to Egbert Willems and his wife who have just announced they are expecting their second baby!

CLIFFE EQUINE



SPECIAL OFFER ON CAVALESSE

We are offering **CAVALESSE** at **£75 INCLUDING VAT** for your horse or pony throughout June and July.

CONTINUING CHEAP VISITS

£9.50 VISIT FEE TO YOUR AREA

In addition to our usual veterinary services we will be offering a scheme where one of our equine vets will be working within a visit zone. This means that on a regular day each week you will be able to book a visit for *routine work* within that zone and only pay **£9.50** for your visit. So with very little planning you can save money on your veterinary bill.

Appointments must be booked **at least one working day prior** to the visit, and are only to be used for routine work, e.g. vaccinations, re-examinations, dental work etc. Non-routine visits that do not qualify for this offer included urgent same-day visits e.g. wounds; or cases that require more detailed work or extended time, e.g. yard lameness investigations or castrations.

Specific times for visits cannot be guaranteed, however we will always try to accommodate your request for a morning or afternoon visit where possible.

For further details, including a map to find out in which zone you are in, and on which weekday your routine yard visit day is, please visit our website www.cliffeequine.co.uk, or ring the clinic to speak to the office staff on (01323) 815120.



SWEETITCH UPDATE

The summer allergy season is upon & we can inform you a new natural product has been launched to help combat sweet itch and other allergy disorders.

Cavalesse contains vitamin B3 (nicotinamide) which reduces the production of histamine & improves the skin barrier by increasing the amount of natural fats in the skin's surface.

This helps balance the natural immune response of a horse & so promoting a healthy skin in those prone to allergies in spring and summer.

NEW DEFRA REGULATIONS ON MICROCHIPPING

The passport scheme for all equines has been in effect now for some years, but a recent alteration has been made. A European Regulation states that all foals born **after 1st July 2009** are subject to compulsory microchipping.

While this requirement is not retrospective for older horses, microchips provide an essential link between a horse and its passport, strengthening existing horse identification requirements. Such unique identification of equidae may also prove useful for disease control and surveillance purposes and for the recovery of lost or stolen horses.

Implanting a microchip is done by injecting the chip halfway down the left side of the crest of the neck. Most animals do not resent this procedure more than routine vaccination.



Scanning an implanted microchip

We are offering the microchipping service for **£15 per horse**. This fee includes both the chip itself, implanting it and also completing the paperwork. This offer runs until the end of September 2009 and applies to any horse or donkey, not just those born after 1st July.

If you are unsure about these regulations or other aspects of the equine passport scheme, look at www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/horses or please ring the clinic on (01323) 815120.

CLIENT TALK

EXAMINATION OF THE HORSE BEFORE PURCHASE

Speakers:

Mr. Karl Holliman

Miss Imogen Silhan-Sutton

We will cover:

- Conformation
- Heart Murmurs
- Lumps and bumps
- Eye examination
- Insurance implications

Wednesday 22nd July 2009

7.30pm

**Rural business Centre
Plumpton Agricultural College**

Please ring the clinic to reserve your
FREE ticket.