



UPDATES IN BRIEF

- Focus on Equine Stud Medicine
- Cliffe Equine is a BEVA registered clinic for AI & an accredited RCVS Tier 2 practice
- New date for your diary
- Cliffe Equine News
- Worming Update
- Awareness month: Gastric ulceration



VET CONTACT DETAILS

Karl	07831
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Focus on Breeding...

With the start of another stud season upon us a quick update on breeding & foal care could prove handy.

Mares are long day breeders, & will be starting to come into season again. This time is known as the transitional phase. Some mares struggle to get back into their regular cycle & you may notice behavioural problems, e.g. Irregular seasons, seeking male attention etc. This can be very frustrating for you & your horse, but treatment with Regumate may be able to help stabilise hormone levels, reducing or resolving these issues.



In place of our usual Xmas Quiz Night, Cliffe Equine hosted a Race night back in January to raise funds to support the valuable work done by **The Donkey Sanctuary**. We are pleased to announce we raised **£450** & had a great evening! Many thanks to our generous sponsors.

The most recent client talk was a very successful meeting on donkey health with Alex Thiemann from the Donkey Sanctuary coming to talk to us, along with Karl Holliman. Many thanks to Alex and Karl for their time.

If you are thinking of putting your mare in foal, now is the time to start having a pre-breeding assessment done. Checking the health of the whole horse as well as more detailed examination of the reproductive organs is vital to ensure a good conception rate, regardless of the method used for breeding.

If you are sending your mare away to stud, don't forget to check what tests they require & ensure the stallion has also been tested for infectious diseases such as contagious equine metritis (CEM) & equine viral arteritis (EVA). With an outbreak of equine infectious anaemia (EIA) being reported earlier this year, many studs will also require a "Coggin's test" as well.

For those people who took the plunge last year and are now coming to the end of the 11 month wait, ensuring you are prepared for the foaling is vital. This is an exciting experience for the first time breeder, but the prospect may be intimidating too!



The mare is likely to keep away from others just prior to foaling and stage one of labour can last several hours, but the second stage, when the pushing starts, is usually over within 15-20 minutes. Try not to disturb the mare & foal too soon, it is common for the hindlegs to remain inside the mare for several minutes without separation of the umbilical cord. The foal receives quite a bit of blood from the mare at this time and detaching the cord too soon can result in an anaemic foal. As long as the foal's head is free from placenta, it is best to let nature take its course.

If you need help at any time, ring the clinic on (01323) 815120. A talk on "Breeding & Foal Care" is being held at Plumpton College on 24th March at 7.30pm. Please ring to reserve your free ticket.

Cliffe Equine Clinic News

The start of 2010 has been very exciting for the team at Cliffe with both Claire Ashdown & Heather Rea announcing engagements to Miles and Chris respectively. Claire & Miles are marrying in July & we mustn't forget Emma Farrow is getting married this April to her fiancé Richard. In addition to upcoming weddings, Sally Hall has announced she is expecting a baby & is due in June: congratulations & good luck to all!

Penny Brownings is well on the road to recovery following knee surgery,

but sadly we will be missing Karl Holliman from the team for 12 weeks from March as he recoups from hip surgery. We wish him a speedy recovery, Over the upcoming months we will have an experienced assistant to ensure that we continue to provide our best service to all our patients.

Finally, we look forward to welcoming Nina Darling to our nursing team. Nina joins us in April from Willersley Equine Clinic, Gloucestershire & will complete her EVN qualification next year.



Update on Worming Protocols

At the start of the spring worming is often a hot topic - what with, how often & more importantly do I need to? More & more information is available which is very useful but frequently confusing.

In recent years there has been a move away from the set worming programmes, towards a more targeted way of worming. Targeted worming plans are based on the concept that horses are treated only when necessary rather than at set time intervals. By doing this drugs are given less frequently to your horse and resistance issues may be less of a problem in the future. Using faecal worm egg counts (FWEC) & blood samples it is possible to determine if and what type of worming is appropriate.

While this is a great concept, some fundamental points that must be taken on board in order to implement the target protocol effectively & subsequently it may not be suitable for every horse or yard.

To help you to decide whether targeted worming is appropriate for your yard or horse, there are a few pointers below:

- ◆ Horses should be kept alone or in a constant group
- ◆ Field must be poo-picked at least 2-3 times weekly
- ◆ Adequate grazing must be available for the number of horses kept
- ◆ Cross-grazing with cattle/sheep is beneficial
- ◆ New horses must be worm counted & wormed for encysted & tape worms before joining the others.

Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome

EGUS describes the erosion of the stomach lining due to a prolonged exposure to acid produced by the stomach. This acid exposure occurs in a range of severity, from inflamed stomach lining to widespread erosion & bleeding. If left unchecked these ulcers can perforate which is fatal. This type of lesion is more common in foals than adults.

A 4-point grading system helps to classify the degree of change seen, grade 2 & above are likely to be causing problems. The photo opposite is about grade 3.

While EGUS can affect any horse, those in stressed situations, either through work or illness are more predisposed. However, studies show that up to 37% of leisure horses may be affected.

Signs of the syndrome are non-specific & may include poor appetite;

weight loss; poor performance; behavioural changes & mild/recurrent colic bouts. Foals in particular tooth grind & may not nurse as frequently, exacerbating the problem.

To diagnose and grade EGUS, visually inspecting the stomach lining is necessary using a 3m endoscope. If ulceration is detected, a treatment plan can then be put into place, often using an oral paste called Gastroguard over 1-4 weeks. A second gastroscope may be necessary to reassess lesions at the end of treatment. The chance of EGUS developing can be reduced by altering management to allow frequent feeding & free choice access to hay/grass; reduction of high carbohydrate feeds & using preventative treatment at high risk times.

To discuss your horse's management fully, please ring and speak to Sally or Imogen on (01323) 815120. Additional information can be found at www.equinegastriculcers.co.uk where an online risk assessment is also available.

CLIENT TALK

BREEDING & FOAL CARE



Cliffe Equine invite you to an informative meeting to review reproduction techniques (natural & AI) as well as discussion about foaling, foal & weaning care. We hope to tackle some of the common problems you may come across in an informal manner using case presentations & discussion in addition to short talks. We would encourage people to bring questions or real situation cases to discuss.

The talk will be held at Plumpton College on

WEDNESDAY 24th MARCH 2010; 7.30pm

Please contact the office on (01323) 815120 or enquiries@cliffeequine.co.uk to reserve a **FREE** place.

Initially worming may be required as frequently as before, but will reduce in frequency rapidly. Timing of the FWEC is important, to get the truest result samples should be taken when the worming is next due or just overdue.

As with all things related to worming, there is no one simple answer & appropriate strategies are often complicated. The Cliffe Equine website, www.cliffeequine.co.uk, will have more detailed information about worming, fixed or targeted worming. It may be easier however to discuss your individual situation at the yard on a zone visit.

SPECIAL OFFER

A tube of **EQVALAN DUO** & a **WORM EGG COUNT** for **£18** during the month of March.

Bring your faecal sample to the clinic 6-8 weeks after worming with the Eqvalan Duo & a vet will ring you with your results. You can discuss a future worming plan at this time too!

GASTRIC ULCERATION AWARENESS MONTH

The month of May is gastric ulcer awareness month. During this time we are encouraging owners to recognise the signs of Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome more easily.

Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome affects a wide number of horses in the UK and can have serious consequences for the health of your horse.

Signs are often difficult to detect and looking into the horse's stomach directly with gastroscope is the only way to confirm the presence of ulcers.

If you think your horse may suffer from ulcers, please contact Sally or Imogen

on 01323 815120.

Please also look at our website for updates on the awareness month.

