

EQUUS VETS JANUARY NEWSLETTER

2024

FOR BREEDING, FOR SPORT, FOR LIFE

Providing you with a dedicated and experienced team of equine only vets, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week covering Devon and East Cornwall



PRACTICE NEWS

We would like to welcome and introduce our newest member of the Equus team, Sam Sharp.

Sam started his veterinary career at Hartpury college completing a degree in Bioveterinary Science, before going on to study Veterinary Medicine at RVC. After graduating in 2022, Sam undertook an Internship at the RCV Equine Referral Hospital rotating around each of the services; Diagnostic Imaging, Medicine, Surgery and Out of Hours, developing and learning new skills. Sam also then stayed on at the RVC working for the Equine ambulatory team caring for horses in Hertfordshire and surrounding areas. During this time Sam has lived in North Devon and is now excited to be back home after a long time coming and is looking forward to meeting you all and your companions as he joins the Equine and Small animal team. In his spare time Sam enjoys walking and exploring the Devonshire countryside with partner Poppy and their dogs Barley and Olive. But also enjoys tending to his small flock of sheep amongst surfing and watching CHIEFS when he can!



Equus Vets have a variety of high-tech portable equipment which give quality diagnostics at your stable side.

What we offer:

Portable digital x-ray machines

Video Gastroscope

Video Endoscope

Portable ultrasound machine

Oroscope for dental examinations and teeth rasping

In-house laboratory facilities

Pre-purchase examinations

Acupuncture

Lameness examinations and work ups



SWEET ITCH



With spring fast approaching, managing sweet itch can be a difficult task.

What is sweet itch and what causes the reaction?

Sweet itch is caused by a hypersensitivity (a type of allergic) reaction to insect bites, normally midges. This reaction to the midge bite causes an intense itching sensation, leading to rubbing, scratching and biting of affected areas. Once the skin has been damaged, the resulting inflammation worsens the itching, often leading to further scratching and skin damage.

Sweet itch tends to follow a seasonal pattern and is usually at its worst in spring an autumn when midges are most abundant.

What are the signs of Sweet Itch?

Horses with sweet itch most commonly have hairless, raw or weeping areas, often with thickened or crusty skin. These areas are usually concentrated around the crest and tail but can occur all over the body.

Equus Vets
 Head office: 64 Fore Street, North Tawton, Devon, EX20 2DT
 Medication collection points in North Tawton, Okehampton, Hatherleigh and
 Holsworthy
 01837 214004
 info@equusvets.co.uk – www.equusvets.co.uk

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What is the Insol injection?

Insol is an off-licence medication used to aid the management of sweet itch. It has proven to help many of our patients who suffer from sweet itch.

Insol has to be imported from overseas, so we tend to order it specifically for patients who request it.

If you would like any further information on Insol or would like to book an appointment, please contact a member of our Equus team on 01837 214004 or info@equusvets.co.uk

February is the ideal time to start this injection.



Picture 1 taken from Horse and Hound

Picture 2 taken from World Horse Welfare

Pictures 1 and 2 display two horses suffering from sweet itch.

[How can I treat Sweet Itch?](#)

Unfortunately, there is no cure for sweet itch so preventative measures are important to help keep affected horses comfortable. These are best started before the midges appear. These include:

- Stabling horses at dawn and dusk when midges are most active.
- Keeping horses in fields away from water courses and any vegetation which is likely to attract midges.
- Using close-fitting sweet itch for fly rugs to prevent midges biting.
- Reducing access to fences and post that horses can itch on.

Prevention is key for many horses; we offer an off licence injection called Insol (a vaccine licensed for treatment of ringworm). This consists of 2 injections 2 weeks apart in January/February before the midge season starts. This can help reduce the severity of reactions when they do occur. Some horses also benefit from a further dose in September.

Insol is imported so advanced booking is required. Please contact the Equus team on 01837 214004 if you would like any further information on the injection or would like to book your appointments.

In severe cases, steroids can help reduce itching. However long-term use of steroids can increase the risk of laminitis for some horses. Unfortunately, antihistamines are very rarely effective in horses.



EAST CORNWALL AREA DAYS

W/C 12th February

W/C 24th February



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