

EQUUS VETS MARCH NEWSLETTER

2024

FOR BREEDING, FOR SPORT, FOR LIFE

Providing you with a dedicated and experienced equine only vets, 24 hours a day in Devon and East Cornwall

VACCINATIONS

Dates for vaccinations can often cause constination and nothing worse than having to go to the expense of restarting a course.

Whilst we try to let clients know when their horse needs a vaccination going by the records on our system, it is always good to check your horse/ponies passport and make a note as to when you need to get booked in.

Initial Flu course:

Vacc 1

Between Vacc 1 - Vacc 2

21-60 days

Between Vacc 2 - Vacc 3

120-180 days

Subsequent flu boosters will be either 6 monthly or yearly depending on whether you compete under a governing body. You would need to contact them directly on their requirements.



TEAM NEWS

Whilst **Gemma** has a new addition to her family, we have also gained a new member to our team!!

Let us introduce you to the gorgeous 'Wispa' who some of you might have seen out and about with Gemma on her rounds!!

Our receptionist **Rachel** has started off her Single Horse Indoor Carriage Driving Season with a bang in February partnered by her gorgeous boy Curly. They made the trip up to Stretcholt and won their class!! We wish them well competing at Kingston Maurward later this month.

CASTRATIONS

As the weather starts to dry up, spring is an ideal time to get your colt castrated.

What happens during a castration?

Most castrations are done standing under sedation, although in some circumstances knocking the horse down and performing the castration under general anaesthetic may be preferable.

Once the horse has been sedated and pain relief given, the testicles are cleaned, and local anaesthetic given. If your horse has not been vaccinated against tetanus, tetanus antitoxin will also be given. An incision is made into the scrotum to expose the testicle. Emasculators are then applied to the spermatic cord, blood vessels and muscles. This cuts and crushes the structures at the same time, both removing the testicle and stopping any bleeding.

What facilities do I need?

A clean, dry area with good light is needed to perform the castration. If the castration is being done under general anaesthetic a clean bed will also be required.

Spring and autumn are generally preferred as times for castration as there is (usually!) less mud and flies. This reduces the risk of complications such as infection.

Equus Vets
Head office: 64 Fore Street, North Tawton, Devon, EX20 2DT
Medication collection points in North Tawton, Okehampton, Hatherleigh and
Holsworthy
01837 214004

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Gastroscope Month

Last couple of weeks to take avail of our Ulcer awareness month (March) and book in for a reduced fee gastroscope.

If you are concerned that your horse is showing signs of discomfort and would like to take avail of the offer this month, please call our reception team on 01837214004

A Little Reminder

Due to the rule changes implemented by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) in Autumn 2023, we are not allowed to dispense any type of antibiotics or controlled drug unless your horse has had a physical examination.

Whilst this can be frustrating when we are all trying to keep costs to a minimum with the rising of the cost of living, we have to ensure that we work within the parameters of the RCVS providing the best level of care that we can for your horses, ponies and donkeys.



The picture on the left shows our vets performing a 'Knock Down' castration and on the right Javier performing a 'Standing Castration'



What is involved in the aftercare?

After the castration, your horse will need to be turned out in a clean, dry paddock for approximately 14 days. This is so the horse will keep moving and any blood and debris will drain from the castration site. Turnout pens are generally not preferred as horses do not tend to move around as much as needed.

Your horse will be on pain relief for several days, antibiotics are sometimes given. The castration site will need to be checked daily for any signs of complications.

Are there any potential complications?

The main complications that may occur from castration are:

- Infection – characterised by pus coming from the castration site.
- Swelling and discomfort – there is usually a little swelling and discomfort following castration. If the horse does not move enough following castration the skin can heal too quickly, preventing drainage of blood and debris. In these cases, the incision needs to be reopened.
- Bleeding – there will be some bleeding for a few days. However, a stream (where you can't count the drops) lasting more than 5 minutes will likely require a visit from the vet.
- Evisceration – this is very rare but sadly does happen. Tissue/intestines from the abdomen come through the same hole the spermatic cord and vessels exit through.

What about older horses and rigs?

Older horses have a higher risk of complications. In some cases, we may be able to perform these on your yard. In other cases, we may recommend referral to a hospital with more suitable facilities. Rigs (horses with one or both undescended testicles) generally require referral as the surgery is more complicated and requires more specialist equipment. We are happy to assess your horse and advise on the best course of action in these cases.

EAST CORNWALL AREA DAYS FOR APRIL

w/c 8TH April

w/c 22ND April



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