

PROUD TO BE AN INDEPENDENT EQUINE PRACTICE OWNED BY VETS

HEAD OFFICE: 64 FORE STREET, NORTH TAWTON, DEVON, EX20 2DT

MEDICATION COLLECTION POINTS: OKEHAMPTON, HATHERLEIGH AND HOLSWORTHY



SAVE THE DATE

We are planning to host a Client Evening to include some Christmas Cheer!

“My horse has colic”

Thursday 12th December 2024
Bridestowe Village Hall
Post Code: EX20 4EW @ 18.30

Please contact the Equus office via phone or email to book your place.

EQUUS VETS NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2024

What's New?

October has been a busy month for our vets out on the road, seeing a variety of different patients.

We have started our next rotation of final year veterinary students from Surrey university. Their role is to shadow our vets, watch and assist whilst treating their patients. Please feel free to ask them questions when you see them as client interaction is an extremely important part of their role. Many thanks again for your support with our collaboration with Surrey university.

We are planning client evenings in various locations for you to attend. Each evening will have a different topic and our vets will take it in turns to speak. Keep your eyes peeled for the up-and-coming ones in the new year.

We are building our new website which will have lots of exciting new features which include registration, providing you with easy access data sheets for medications and easy access to our up-and-coming events and newsletters!

We are now a BHS colic REACT champion. This gives us access to resources that we can share with you about colic and prevention.

‘THROUGH THE EARS’

This month's through the ears picture is of Belle, who is on one of her favourite rides. The cows tend to follow Belle and her owner around when they are out riding. This gives them both a chance to live out their inner cowgirl!!

If you would like to share a ‘Through the Ears’ picture, please pop it across to georgie.brown@equusvets.co.uk

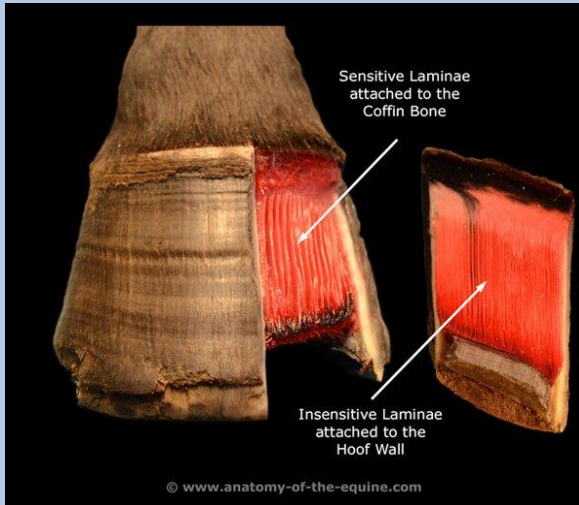


Providing you with a dedicated and experienced team of equine only vets, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week covering Devon and East Cornwall

01837 214004 – info@equusvets.co.uk

AUTUMNAL LAMINITIS

Laminitis is an extremely painful condition where there is inflammation of the laminae in the foot. The laminae are the structures that attach the pedal bone to the hoof wall. When there is inflammation or damage to the laminae, whilst being very painful, this can also lead to the rotation of the pedal bone.



Whilst laminitis is often considered to be a condition that arises in the Spring, it can be a year-round problem and can be quite prevalent in Autumn. If you know that your horse is susceptible to laminitis, it is a time to be mindful.

Why?

- At this time of year, in the warm and wet weather, there can be a flush of grass with increased sugar levels which can trigger laminitis for some.

All horses naturally experience a rise in ACTH in the Autumn (a hormone produced by the pituitary gland) which stimulates the release of cortisol (a hormone that regulates factors such as metabolism/blood sugar levels). So, with the rise of ACTH in mind, it can heighten the risk for ponies that are overweight/ had laminitis previously or diagnosed with PPID or EMS.

Now is the ideal time to blood sample if you are suspicious that your horse or pony has the early onset of Cushing's disease.

LAMINITIS CASE STUDY

Brenin is a successful driving stallion. He was initially seen by us as his owner's noticed he was having difficulty moving his hind legs. On examination he had a high stepping forelimb gait whilst slamming his feet hard on the ground and 'bunny-hopping' with his hind limbs.

From the examination, it was decided to nerve block his front feet as we were suspicious of laminitis but was not a typical presentation. Twenty minutes post nerve block Brenin was able to walk normally again. Radiographs confirmed that he had severe laminitis in both front feet.



Sufficient pain control and supportive shoeing is detrimental to cases of acute laminitis especially in large horses like Brenin. This was an exceptionally bad case where vet and farrier had to do their utmost to keep this horse comfortable as euthanasia was becoming an unfortunate possibility.

Brenin went on to make a full recovery and we are delighted for the owner who put so much time, effort and emotion into him. This year he has had a very successful season.



Brenin's initial x rays confirmed a diagnosis of laminitis.



CORNWALL AREA DAY

w/c 4th November

w/c 18th November



TRUE OR FALSE

Can a horse sleep standing up?

TRUE!! A group of tendons, ligaments & muscles 'lock' in place (known as the passive stay apparatus) enabling them to relax and sleep/doze whilst standing up.

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