

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

EQUUS VETS NEWSLETTER JULY 2025

PRACTICE NEWS

We really enjoyed seeing so many of you at our Horse Owner evening earlier this month discussing all things relating to First Aid alongside some practical activities. We look forward to our next evening later in the year – we will keep you updated with a date.



In further news.....

Hayden is now a member of the Dartmoor Pony Society Moorland Scheme Committee.

The Scheme is a program that is designed to both preserve the pedigree of the Dartmoor Pony breed and to improve the quality of the moorland stock.

Below is a picture of a 2025 Pedigree Dartmoor Foal called Blacklake Eddy bred by Debbie White



SHOWS

We are looking forward to being out and about over the next few weeks with our Show Trailer. You can find us at:



Launceston Show – Thursday 31st July

Okehampton Show – Thursday 14th August

Chagford Show – Thursday 21st August

Holsworthy Show – Thursday 28th August

If you have any pictures of you competing and would be happy for us to share, please do send them in to georgie.brown@equusvets.co.uk

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01837 214004 – info@equusvets.co.uk

Did you know.....??

Whilst it is not an offence to have ragwort growing on your land, it is however a legal obligation to control the spread of ragwort and to not allow it to affect grazing land or land used for food production under the Control of Ragwort Act (2003).



June to October is the flowering period and when it is most toxic for horses due to it being the time when they are most likely to eat it. It is at this time of year we need to be particularly mindful of the management of the weed.

Overleaf is a table taken from the DEFRA Code of Practice on How to Prevent the Spread of Ragwort to show multiple options on how to manage ragwort on your land comparing a number of factors including labour intensity, cost comparison, how often each method would be recommended alongside success of long-term control.

WOUNDS

Following on from our client evening, we wanted to share a 'Wound Case Study'.

As we discussed on the evening, when finding your horse with a wound, the top details to assess are:

- Wound location
- Size of the wound
- Depth of the wound
- Is there discharge
- Is the wound bleeding & how much blood is there

If it is at all possible and safe to do so, taking a photograph as soon as you find the wound is always helpful to us so that we can make an initial assessment and make a plan for the treatment.

Some wounds can look like nothing at all but can turn out to be quite serious where as some large wounds which can look alarming but can heal well with proper management such as the Case Study below:

1.HISTORY

Diesel was found with a large wound on the left side of his shoulder blade



Picture showing the wound after stitches had been removed

2. EXAMINATION

The wound was stitched to close the area. Due to the location of the wound, the area is under a lot of tension and wound break down is common. Diesel had two courses of antibiotics and twice daily wound management by the owner. Diesel was luckily a start patient!



Diesel happily out in the field with only the smallest of marks now showing

3. THE FOLLOW UP

The stitches were removed after ten days and then the wound was allowed to heal by second intention. This means that the wound closes itself. Wound management including daily cleaning with salt was very important at this time. After three weeks Diesel was allowed into a small field.

TAKE AWAY NOTE

If you come across a wound, never be afraid to call our reception team to be able to speak with one of our vets/make an appointment. The severity of a wound can be deceptive due to the appearance and acting fast in the correct way can make a big difference to the outcome.

AREA DAYS

w/c 11th August

w/c 25th August

Dispense Requests

Our vets need to approve the dispense requests made to our reception team.

To save disappointment, please do allow at least a 24hr period for collection as it is not always possible to get an immediate 'ok' from our vets if they are out on the road

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Table 1. Summary of control methods

Method	Labour requirement	Cost	Prevention of flowering	Success of control – long term	Grazing removal period (days)	Number of treatments required per year	Repeat time scale (years)	Optimum time of treatment	Suitable for large areas	Suitable for dense ragwort colonisations	Remarks
Cutting	*	*	**	*	0(1)	1/2	1	F	***	***	Emergency treatment to prevent seeding. It is essential to cut before seed heads are mature and must be followed with a control technique
Levering out	***	*	***	**	0(1)	1/2	1	F	*	*	Tools available for digging up plants. Best results when soil is wet. Very dependent on spotting plants, some may be missed requiring further treatment.
Herbicide citronella oil derived product (3)	***	***	***	***	7(2)	1-2	1	R and F	*	*	Very dependent on spotting plants, resulting in some being missed. Large plants may need respraying two weeks later. Will control broad-leaved plants.
Herbicide selective spraying (3)	*	**	***	***	21(2)	1-2	1	R	***	***	Most products will kill other broad-leaved plants sprayed.
Herbicide spot treatment (3)	***	**	***	***	21(2)	1-2	1	R or F	***	*	Very dependent on spotting plants, some may be missed requiring further treatment.
Herbicide weed wipes (3)	*	**	**	**	21(2)	1-2	1	F	***	***	Only tall ragwort plants will be affected.
Pulling by hand	***	*	***	**	0(1)	1/2	1	F	**	*	Gloves must be worn. Best results when soil is wet. Very dependent on spotting plants, some may be missed requiring further treatment.
Pulling by machine	*	**	***	**	0(1)	1	1	F	***	***	Selects plants for pulling on height difference and leaves shorter plants.
Biological	*	***	*	?	N.B. Not suitable as a method of control on grazing land	1	1	R or F	***	***	Biological control using the cinnabar moth is at the early stages of development in the UK.

Key: * Low ** Medium *** High: R – When rosettes start growing; F – early summer before flower heads mature;
(1) – Provided ragwort cuttings are removed; (2) These timings are only a guide – follow the manufacturer's guidelines; (3) Always follow the manufacturer's guidelines.
For further advice on grazing removal periods, refer to paragraphs 23 and 24 of Appendix 3.
For a list of suitably qualified spray contractors, contact the National Association of Agricultural Contractors (NAAC). See Appendix 9 for details.