

PROUD TO BE AN INDEPENDENT EQUINE PRACTICE OWNED BY VETS

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MEDICATION COLLECTION POINTS: OKEHAMPTON, HATHERLEIGH AND HOLSWORTHY



VACCINATION AMNESTY

We are delighted with how many clients decided to take advantage of our latest Vaccination Amnesty for Flu, Flu & Tetanus, Tetanus, Equine Herpes Virus and Strangles with our offer of 'Buy One, Get One Free' – With horses having their first vaccine in November and their second to be done in December – giving your horses the highest level of preventative care possible.

As a practice we will always do our utmost to provide you with all the latest news and practices that are being carried out in this ever-evolving world and provide our clients with offers to encourage preventative care for our much-loved horse industry.

For those of you who did decide to go for the vaccination amnesty, please ensure you call our reception team to book in for your second vaccination on 01837 214 004 or pop us an e-mail info@equusvets.co.uk. The interval for the vaccines is date specific, and we want to ensure that you have them within the correct time frame.

EQUUS VETS NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2025

COLIC

It is often the case at this time of year that colic can be more prevalent and unfortunately, we do see a rise in cases.

Why is this??

- Horses are likely to be stabled for longer periods of time and movement is reduced.
- Changes to feeding regimes and reduced water intake.
- Possible dehydration due to water troughs freezing over which will limit access to water.



What can we do at this time of year to limit the risk of colic??

- Ensure your horse always has access to clean water and offer warm water if they are not drinking the cold water.
- Adding a little water to hard feeds to increase water intake.
- Soaking or steaming your horses hay to increase water intake.
- Where possible encourage as much turnout as possible to increase the movement of your horse.
- Ensure you have regular worm egg counts and worm accordingly.
- Ensure your horse is up to date with their teeth to ensure chewing of their feed is maximized.

IS YOUR HORSE SLEEPING SOUNDLY?

Research shows that horses need 30-45 mins Rapid Eye Movement (REM) sleep (a deep sleep) over a 24hr period, with foals and older equines requiring more to optimise both their mental and physical wellbeing. REM sleep can only be achieved during lateral recumbency (lying down).

How to optimize REM sleep:

- Provide a bedded area that is large enough and deep enough for horse to lie down comfortably
- If living out provide access to a bedded field shelter or an area of dry ground for them to lie down on.
- Ensure a safe and secure environment for the horse - an established herd, a suitable size stable and a settled yard dynamic can all contribute to this.
- If staying away at shows, try to keep bedding choices the same as at home and try to allow your horse periods of undisturbed rest.





DISEASES & BIOSECURITY

BIOSECURITY

Mixing horses, whether at competitions or new arrivals on a yard, comes with a risk of spread of infectious diseases such as influenza, strangles and herpes.

EQUINE INFLUENZA – (FLU)

Equine influenza is caused by influenza A virus. It can survive for up to 3 days in the environment and is spread mostly via airborne droplets, as well as direct contact between horses. The main clinical signs are:

- Nasal discharge.
- Cough that may persist for up to 3 weeks.
- Increased breathing rate.
- Raised temperature.
- Reduced appetite and weight loss.

STRANGLES

Strangles is caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus equi subsp. equi* and is spread by direct (nose to nose) and indirect (e.g. bacteria living on water buckets) contact. These bacteria live in the guttural pouches, and once infected horses can become carriers. The main clinical signs are:

- Nasal discharge.
- Lymph node enlargement and abscessation.
- Raised temperature.
- Lethargy and reduced appetite.

EQUINE HERPES VIRUS

Herpes is caused by equine herpes virus; there are 5 subtypes affecting horses. Herpes normally causes respiratory disease but can also cause abortion and neurologic disease in some cases. Like cold sores in people, many horses carry herpes virus latently and they become reactivated in times of stress. Transmission can be direct, indirect or airborne droplets. The main clinical signs are:

- Lethargy and reduced appetite.
- Nasal discharge, sometimes with ocular discharge.
- Lymph node enlargement but no abscessation.

PREVENTING THE SPREAD OF DISEASES

Vaccinations are available for all three of these diseases. This will help protect horses against disease and reduce the severity of symptoms if they are infected. Additionally, good biosecurity protocols can help prevent infection, including:

- Quarantine all new arrivals on a yard for at least 2 weeks. Monitor the temperature of quarantined horses (normal 37.0C-38.5C) as this is often the first sign of infection.
- Cleaning water/feed buckets etc regularly.
- Avoiding sharing equipment at events where there is a lot of mixing of horses, e.g. competitions.
- Ensure any stables and lorries are disinfected between horses.
- Test horses for strangles prior to arrival (ideally a guttural pouch wash).

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SPEAK WITH OUR TEAM REGARDING ANY OF THE VACCINES, PLEASE CALL 01837 214004



AREA DAY

w/c 1st December

w/c 15th December

w/c 29th December

ADVANCED PLANNING

We are looking ahead and preparing for the end of January and ordering Insol for those that have used it as an off – licence product to help manage the effects from sweet-itch. More information on the product will follow in our next Newsletter but if it is something you are considering for next year or have any questions, please do not hesitate to phone or e-mail us.

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

NORTH TAWTON – OKEHAMPTON – HATHERLEIGH - HOLSWORTHY

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