RUN BY VETS, OWNED BY VETS



At the start of the month, we really enjoyed seeing so many of you at our evening talk titled 'Talking Heads'. This was presented by our vets Gemma and Jamie and proudly sponsored by Boehringer Ingelheim.

We are delighted to share that the raffle raised £90.00 for the Devon Air Ambulance.

If you have a topic you would like us to present at our future evening talks, please pop an email to georgie.brown@equusvets.co.uk





North Park Veterinary Group Trading as:

EQUUS VETS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2026

Have you used our new WhatsApp service yet? 07892716883

Our new What's app number went live in October, giving you an alternative method of contact to send any repeat prescription requests or any videos or photos you would like our vets to look at.

Our admin team will then pick up your messages during the usual working hours and respond.

This does not replace our call or email contact methods but can be used as an alternative.

The number is NOT for emergencies, please continue to contact us via telephone in the case of an emergency.

EAST CORNWALL AREA DAY

w/c 14th December

IS YOUR HORSE 15 AND OVER?

Did you know that we have a specific Health Plan for Veterans?

WHAT IS INCLUDED?

- Annual Visit
- Flu/tetanus vaccine
- Annual dental check and teeth rasp
- Annual Health Check
- Dietary Advice
- 4 x Worm Egg Counts
- Saliva Tapeworm testing kit



If you would like more infomation on the Veteran Health Plan or other Health Plans that we offer, please visit www.equusvets.co.uk or call our team on 01837214004

AS WELL AS.....

- Priority booking for client evenings
- 6 month Visit
- 6 month health check
- General Bloods
- ACTH Bloods
- **10% off long-term medications**

What do you do with your unused medication?

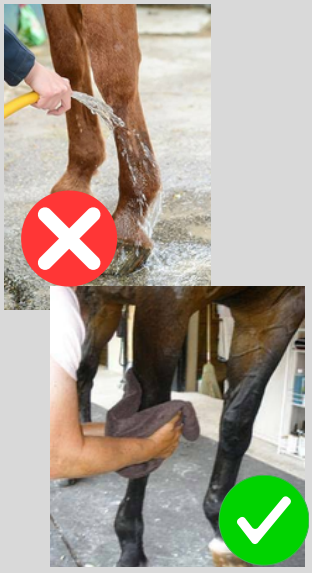
We advise all clients return any unused or out-of-date medication. This is to ensure that medication is disposed of in the correct manner. North Park Veterinary Group takes sustainability seriously and endeavor to minimise harmful medication contamination going into the environment.

COMMON WINTER CONDITIONS

The weather is starting to change and it is likely that the routines for our horses are changing as well. The ground will soon start to turn wet which will in turn create its own annoyances!! Below are some common Winter Conditions we come across along with some suggestions of how to help manage them. If you have any questions on the information provided below or other winter conditions you are concerned about, please do not hesitate to contact our team.

MUD FEVER

- *What is mud fever?*
  - Mud fever is when bacteria enters the horse through damaged skin. If the skin is subjected to relentless wet and muddy conditions, it becomes soft which heightens the risk for it to become damaged and infection to arise.
- *Causes of mud fever include*:
  - A horse standing in wet and muddy conditions for long periods without a break for them to dry out naturally at any stage.
  - Having a wound that would be coming into contact with the mud allowing bacteria to easily infiltrate.
  - Washing legs regularly and not drying them properly.



- *Ways to minimise the risk of infection*:
  - By ensuring your horse has somewhere dry to stand out of the mud
  - Checking daily for any wounds and treating them
  - By not washing your horses legs and just allowing them to dry naturally and brushing the mud off (or if you have to wash them ensure they are dried thoroughly)
- If you suspect your horse has mud fever, please do contact us so that the vets can diagnose and suggest a personalised treatment plan that would likely include keeping your horse out of the wet and muddy conditions, gently removing any lose scabs and keeping the affected area clean and dry.

RAIN SCALD

- Like mud fever, rain scald tends to appear during the autumn and winter months and is also caused by bacteria penetrating softened skin. It can be found along the back, flanks and rump.
- Typically rain scald is caused by continued exposure to wet and muddy conditions however ***it can also occur when horses are over rugged due to excessive sweating.***
- Rain scald is characterised by tufts of hair coming off leaving scabs which can be painful. The scabs can vary in size and may have yellow pus on the skin underneath them.
- If you suspect that your horse has rain scald, please do contact us (by phone, by emailing in pictures or using our new whats app number) so that the vets can have a chat and rule out any other potential conditions.
- To manage rain scald, your horse should be given protection from the wet weather be it through a rug or a field shelter (without over heating your horse), clipping the areas could be helpful if very hairy, gently cleaning the affected areas and then drying thoroughly and apply cream.
- Good management would also include washing any grooming kit, rugs and tack in a disinfectant to avoid re-infection



Photo Credit: British Horse Society

RCVS ACCREDITED PRACTICE

01837 214004

www.equusvets.co.uk

info@equusvets.co.uk

SWEET ITCH

January is a good time to start preparing for the year ahead for sweet itch. Please call our reception team to get an appointment booked - 01837 214 004

WINTER COLIC

- Whilst colic is a year round condition, impaction colic is something we often see in the autumn and it is potentially fatal.
- Impaction colic is where there is a blockage in the digestive tract preventing the normal passage of gas and food in the gut .
- Impaction colic is often associated with changes in a horses diet, being stabled for longer periods, less movement and reduced water intake.
- This is why it is more common at this time of year when the routines have changed for our horses. They are not out in the field moving about as much decreasing gut motility. They are likely to be drinking less water which can cause an issue as water aids digestion by keeping fibre moving through the digestive system.



Photo Credit: Horse & Hound



- If your horses are field kept, do ensure on cold mornings that any ice that may have formed is removed or if automatic drinkers in the stables, ensure a bucket of water is provided in case of freezing overnight. Sometimes adding warm water to the buckets can help encourage drinking or adding a little water to their feed to help hydration.
- If your horse is stabled, ensure you keep to a routine to minimise the eating of thier bed which can cause impactions or blockages.
- If you are in any doubt with the behaviour of your horse and you suspect a colic, please do contact us.

WINTER COUGHING

- Like colic, a horse can have a cough at any time of the year, although autumn and winter can be a time that is more common for a horse to develop one.
- A cough can be triggered by a virus and more rarely a bacterial infection. It can also be triggered by the environment the horse is in and allergies to contaminants in the air such as dust and spores.
- With the change in weather and your horse likely having their routine adjusted to being stabled more, this will likely expose them to dust, mold spores and ammonia fumes from their bed.
- With these factors increasing the chances of a winter cough, the most ideal situation if you have the ground to allow for it, would be for your horse to be in the field as much as possible with a field shelter as this would minimis the exposure.
- If you ground is not suitable for your horse to be turned out for long periods, by ensuring you feed good quality hay/haylege will minimise dust and mold spores as well as using good quality bedding.
- By taking your horse out of the stable whilst mucking out will reduce their intake of any ammonia fumes and would be beneficial.
- Ensuring that there is good ventilation is another way to minimise winter coughing. If there is a little breeze in the stable and you are concerned about the warmth of your horse, popping an extra rug on to keep them snuggly with a breeze would be better than a stable with inadeqaute ventilation.



Photo Credit: Equus Magazine

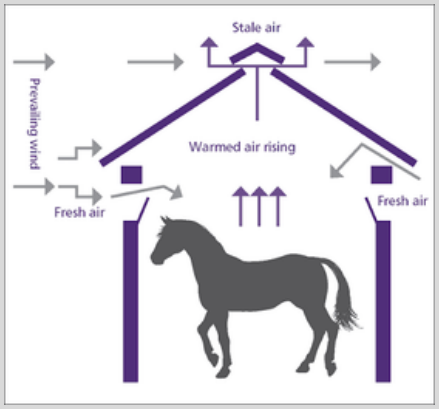


Photo Credit: UK Vet Equine

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