



Damory Veterinary Clinic

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Special points of interest in this issue:

- Hints for successful breeding
- Top tips for problem free foaling

Also included in this issue:

- New diagnostic equipment
- Sweet-itch warning
- Worming reminder

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Breeding Season Starts

Finally Spring is upon us and foals are already arriving. If you are hoping to breed from your mare then here are some helpful hints to aid success:



- **Pre-breeding veterinary examination:** This is helpful to identify any problems (such as infections) that may affect fertility.

- **Screening tests:** Check with the stud you are sending your mare to, what tests are needed. All will need us to do a swab for CEM, and many also need a blood test for EVA. Allow at least a week for the results to come back from the lab.

- **Vaccination:** She should be covered for both tetanus and influenza.

- **General Health:** Make sure you send her away in good health. Think about: farriery, dentistry, worming, diet and general comfort.

- **Artificial Insemination:** If you are interested in breeding from your mare at home, contact us at the surgery about AI. There are various pros and cons but we can help you make a decision.

We would advise an ultrasound scan 15 and 23 days after covering/ovulation to detect pregnancy (see below).



foal

Be Prepared For Foaling

Thankfully most mares produce a foal uneventfully. However, occasionally problems arise and here are some points to bear in mind:

- **Timing:** The udder will enlarge in the last 2-4 weeks before foaling. A wax droplet will form on each teat about 48 hours before she foals.
- **Labour:** The process of pushing out the foal is normally quick (30 minutes) and progressive. Call us immediately if any of the following occurs:

-Mare starts to push and stops

-A red membrane/bag appears at the vulva

-Labour is taking longer than 20 minutes

-If you observe only 1 foot or 2 feet and no head

- **Placenta:** This should fall out within 3 hours; call us if it is still hanging after 6 hours.

- **Running milk:** If milk runs from the udder before foaling, contact us. It is very important for you to

collect this 'colostrum' to feed the foal later.

- **Foal sucking:** Foals get to their feet very quickly and it is critical they drink enough colostrum within the first 12 hours of life. If in doubt we can blood test the foal at 24 hours of age.



New Diagnostic Equipment

Sonosite Titan:



We have two new ultrasound scanners in the equine department which has increased both the quality of images and range of structures that can be assessed.

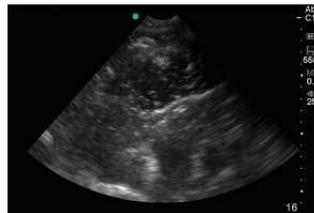
The **Sonosite Titan** has two probes which enable scanning a range of structures including: tendons and ligaments of legs, joints, eyes and abdomens.

We also have a **Honda** ultrasound machine dedicated to fertility scanning. This has a probe for imaging the re-

productive tract of pregnant and non-pregnant mares.

Both machines are digital enabling images to be archived on the computer and e-mailed.

Example of an ultrasound of intestines:



Example of a tendon ultrasound:



Both machines can be used in the clinic or a stable.

Sweet-itch Warning

Despite such a cold Winter, the midges are back and ready to cause the allergic skin problem 'sweet-itch'.

Many cases are controllable and the *Boett* blankets are invaluable at preventing the biting insects that trigger the skin inflammation.

Last year we started using **Cavalesse** which is a medication somewhat similar to an anti-histamine. It proved

to be very effective in many severe cases.



The medication is given daily with a treat and a liquid to be applied topically is also

supplied.

If your pony suffers badly with sweet-itch then **Cavalesse** is an option.

It does not replace good management with Boett or fly blankets and insect repellents.

However it may prevent the need for drugs such as corticosteroids which can be associated with laminitis.



Support our hunt

Come and enjoy some racing at the Portman Hunt's point-to-point at Badbury Rings on Saturday 10th April. See you there!



Spring Worming Reminder

Traditionally horses are treated for tapeworms twice a year in March and September.

So if you haven't wormed for tapeworms we would advise giving either a double dose of Pyratape-P or a normal dose of Equitape now.

Additionally a blood test is available to monitor the level of any infestation. This could be done at the time of

a booster vaccination.

Redworms can be monitored over the grazing period (March to September) by testing a small sample of droppings.



More details about this so called *Intelligent Worming* and a suggested programme are available on our website; this can be found at:

www.damoryvets.co.uk

Hopefully this will reduce the need for worming drugs (saving money) and prevent resistance to them in the future.