



Damory Veterinary Clinic

Damory Lodge
Edward Street
Blandford Forum
Dorset
DT11 7QT

Tel. 01258 452626
Fax 01258 453548
e-mail: office@damoryvets.co.uk

Special points of interest in this issue:

- Obesity epidemic
- Passport rules
- New product information

Also included in this issue:

- Baby boom at Damory

Obesity: An Equine Epidemic?

We all know that some horses are 'good doers' and seem to survive on thin air. However more horses seem to be overweight.

Recent data from a study by the charity *World Horse Welfare* puts this into perspective: It estimates that between 35 and 45% of horses in the UK are overweight or obese.



A number of serious health problems are linked to obesity (see below).

Is my horse too fat?

Be pro-active and monitor your horse's weight. A weigh-bridge would be the best way to do this but a weight-tape is more practical. However it is

best used to monitor *changes* in weight.



Body condition scoring is good way to objectively measure how **fat** your horse is. World Horse Welfare has a useful video guide on its website:

www.worldhorsewelfare.org

A low body condition score is too thin and high is too fat.

What should a horse eat?

On average a horse will consume 2-2.5% of its body-weight as food each day: 8-10 kg (18-22lbs) for a 400kg riding horse.

This should be mainly made up of forage. The grass and all treats should be included in this amount.



How do I put my horse on a diet?

Feed less calories than your horse is using up! The amount of feed can be reduced to 1.5% of body weight but no more. Any changes should be made slowly (e.g. over 5-6 days).

Do discuss diet and feeding with us or a specialist nutritionist before making too many changes.

Obesity associated problems

Horses will not suffer a heart attack from being too fat but there are a number of associated problems:

- Metabolic Syndrome-This predisposes to problems

such as laminitis

- Colic– Internal fatty lumps can wrap around bowel.
- Joint development– Inflammation and cartilage

damage can occur in a youngster that is too fat.

- Poor fertility and problems at foaling
- 'Wear and tear' injuries due to extra load.

New Passport Rules



For a number of years all horses and ponies over the age of 6 months have been required by law to have a passport. Since July 2009 all new applications for a passport should be accompanied by the insertion of a microchip.

Anyone exporting a horse abroad should also check that any older or foreign/

FEI passports have a Section IX in it. This is the part that allows to sign that your horse is or is not intended for human consumption. All new passports should have this. Certain medications (including bute) require that the passport is signed 'not for human consumption'.

DEFRA has also ruled

that vets need to see a horse's passport when administering treatment or vaccinations. It is now a legal requirement to record vaccinations in the passport, which we normally do anyway.

If you have any questions about passports please ask us. We can easily check yours the next time we see your horse.



New Products: Myoplast

Equitop Myoplast is a unique supplement scientifically designed with just one aim: to support muscle development. It contains 18 key amino acids which are the natural building blocks required by the body for making muscle protein.

The product is packaged as 'power pearls' and aims to support lean muscle growth, not bulk. It is a useful supplement that should not cause horses

to become 'fizzy' which can occur when concentrate feeds are increased.

It is suitable as a supplement in the following scenarios:

- Horses entering training at the beginning of the season or after a period of convalescence
- Periods of intense training and competition
- Older horses which have difficulty in main-

taining condition

- Rehabilitation when you want to increase muscle bulk but not calorie intake

The product is available from veterinary surgeons.

If you are interested in this product please contact the surgery. More information is also available at the following website:

www.equitop-myoplast.co.uk



Damory Baby Boom

There have been four new arrivals at the practice in the last six months. None of them are staff (yet!).

Two of the equine team have had baby boys: Percy for Julian Radburn

and Viggo for Lars Mortensen.

Also Peter Plate from the farm department has had a



little girl, Heidi; and Julie Roper the farm secretary has had a little boy, Joseph.

All are doing well and keep their parents on their toes!

