

Damory Veterinary Clinic

Equine Newsletter



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- Well done Team GB
- Summer health feature
- A focus on the pre purchase examination

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Olympics



The Olympic torch passed through north Dorset on Thursday 12th July and was

cheered on by many supporters despite the rain.

After the amazing opening ceremony we eagerly awaited start of the London 2012 games.

As we write the eventing team have just won a silver



medal. Well done and good luck for the dressage and show jumping riders in the next two weeks.

Summer Health News

Sunburn: Now that summer is upon us, don't forget to apply the sunscreen. The pink areas of horses such as muzzles and the backs of pasterns are prone to UV damage. Products such as Filta-bac are excellent when used prophylactically to prevent inflammation.

SPOAD: This stands for summer pasture-associated

obstructive airway disease! Humans get asthma and hayfever which are both allergic respiratory problems. Horses get SPOAD in the summer when the ground is more dusty and the pollen count is high. Affected horses have an increased breathing rate and a mild cough. It can be difficult to avoid the allergens causing it. Ongoing cases are often treated

with an inhaler which is administered through a device used to treat babies!

Summer mudfever: UV light can also cause a skin problem on the lower legs where there is pink skin. Superficially the result looks like mudfever but the treatment involves steroids and stabling.



Practice News

Wedding
Congratulations to Gemma who married Adrian in June. She returned back to work after honeymoon as Mrs. Falck.

Facebook
You can now keep up to date with news and events

in the equine department by logging onto the Facebook website and searching for *Damory Equine*. There is also a page for the small animal department.

Software upgrade
We have upgraded our office computer software,

so you may notice that your account bills look different. The new system should improve our accounting and enable better services such as reminders for vaccination. If you have any concerns do not hesitate to contact us.



Pre Purchase Examination

Buying a horse is a bit of a gamble. They all seem perfect... Until you get them home!



A pre-purchase examination (PPE or vetting) of a horse is a standard examination of a potential purchase. It aims to try and identify problems which could affect his or her ability to the job for which they are intended.

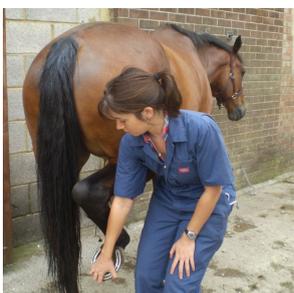
A PPE is not intended to give a warranty, or any guarantee that the horse won't have any problems in the future. It produces an opinion based on an examination on that day.



The examination is broken down into 5 standard stages.

Stage 1: Examination at rest

This is a general physical inspection. It looks at the horse's general condition then closely examining the skin, teeth and eyes. The heart and lungs are auscultated and any lumps or bumps on the legs are noted.



Stage 2: Trotting Up

This involves watching the horse at walk, and trotting on a straight line and a circle. The horse is also backed up and turned in tight turns. Flexion tests are usually performed. Lunging on both soft and hard ground can

be performed if facilities allow.

Stage 3: Strenuous exercise

The horse is then seen at canter and gallop (if possible) to assess his wind. This may be ridden or on the lunge. His heart and lungs are auscultated again while under stress from the exercise.

Stage 4:

Rest

The horse is observed as he recovers from exercise, he is left loose in a stable as this is the time when vices often can be detected.

Stage 5: Second trot up

Walking, trotting and flexion tests are performed again after exercise.

Blood tests

In addition we recommend that blood is taken to be stored for future drugs testing if the horse suddenly becomes lame or changes character.

Further tests

Sometimes further tests such as x-rays or endoscopy may be performed. This is usually requested for high value or elite competition horses. It can be performed if there is a particular concern.

A 'full' vetting involves all 5 stages and takes approximately 1 1/2 hours. It can be varied slightly

depending on the horse and facilities, but we ask that PPEs are always booked in at a yard with suitable trot-up and lunging areas, and someone to ride or handle the horse.

A 2 stage vetting involves only stages 1 and 2 and may miss some problems, but is quicker (and cheaper!) than a full vetting.

Some insurance companies require a PPE before cover begins. This must be done specifically for you, even if the previous owner has only had the horse a short time.

You do not have to be present when your potential purchase is examined, however it is useful to be able to talk to you prior to the examination to establish exactly what you want the horse to do, and if you have any particular concerns. A PPE of a child's first pony is very different from that of an advanced eventer!

We will usually call you to discuss any issues raised during the examination as soon as possible, we prefer to talk through the results and possible consequences rather than just give a 'pass or fail' answer. The PPE certificate follows in the post, although most insurance companies are happy to begin cover before receiving the certificate.