

Damory Veterinary Clinic Equine Newsletter



Damory Veterinary Clinic

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Special points of interest in this article:

- Facts about nosebleeds
- Information about our Equine Health Plans
- Notes on CEM swabbing of mares

Also included in this issue:

- Introducing two new partners at Damory
- New microchipping requirement

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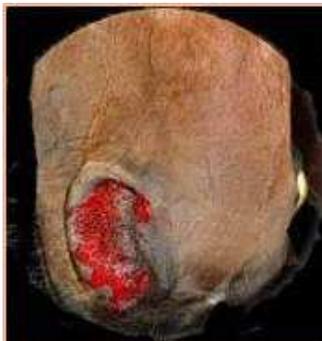
February 2009

Disease facts: Nosebleeds

What should I do?

Don't panic! Although a nosebleed can look dramatic, most stop within 10-15 minutes and little blood is lost. If blood is running out in a stream rather than drips you should call us immediately.

Otherwise it may be worth waiting for 15 minutes to see if the haemorrhage will stop. If it persists as an occasional drip, then we should examine the patient. In the meantime keep the patient calm in a stable.



What can the vet do?

If a brief mild nose bleed has occurred with no other signs then no action may be required.

Frequently the cause is traumatic and painkilling drugs will be administered. If the horse receives a kick or blow to the head close to the eye, the source of a nose bleed may be from one of the si-

nuses. In these situations we will administer antibiotics to help prevent a sinus infection.

More serious or persistent haemorrhages may benefit from endoscopy (see below) to ascertain the underlying cause.

What could be the cause of a nosebleed?

Facial/sinus trauma

A kick or blow to the head is the commonest cause of a nosebleed. The presence of a wound would confirm the suspicion. However, sometimes no marks are visible if the object is blunt (e.g. tree).

After stomach tubing

Sometimes a mild haemorrhage occurs either during or after passing a stomach tube. Since the tube must be inserted up the nose, the lining of the nasal cavity can easily be irritated. The nosebleed will stop in a few minutes if the patient is kept quiet.

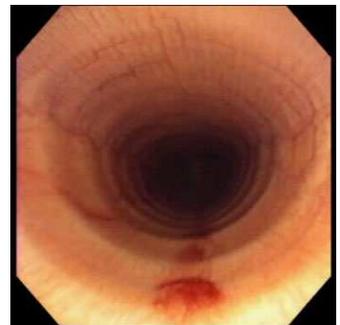
Guttural pouch mycosis

This is an uncommon condition caused by a fungal infection of the guttural pouches, which are located near the back of the throat. The bleeding is usually very severe and can be life threatening. Endoscopy will diagnose the condition. The treatment usually requires surgery.

Nosebleeds at exercise

Exercise Induced Pulmonary Haemorrhage (EIPH) is a condition where small blood vessels in the lungs burst at fast work. EIPH is very common in galloping racehorses.

The bleeding may look dramatic when the horse stops but it is not life threatening. Many horses suffer mild EIPH without a visible nosebleed. In these horses endoscopy will demonstrate flecks of blood in the windpipe as below:



Some rare causes

Tumours or fungal infections in the nasal cavity or lower airways can produce a range of signs including nosebleeds. The haemorrhage is usually mild, variable and intermittent.

Fortunately the serious problems are rare and most nosebleeds stop relatively quickly. Do contact the surgery if you have either an urgent problem or wish to discuss if endoscopy may be appropriate.

A reminder about our Equine Health Plan



Our Equine Health Plan is designed to provide a comprehensive package of preventative health care for your horse.

The plan is paid for by a monthly direct debit which helps to spread the costs more evenly.

The following areas are covered by the plan:

- A health examination is performed every six months at your convenience to help detect problems as soon as

possible.

- A dental examination and any treatment is performed at these visits. A dental chart is completed for your records.

- Routine vaccinations against influenza and tetanus are provided when boosters are due.

- An 'intelligent' worming schedule will be formulated that is based both on your own situation (eg. pasture management) and the results

of routine worm egg counts on faecal samples provided.

- Any treatment required during the year that is not included with the plan will be discounted at a rate of 5%.

- Blood samples can be taken for general screens, tapeworm infections and laminitis risk assessment.

If you are interested in the Equine Health Plan, please contact the surgery for more details.

CEM swabs



With the breeding season approaching, most stallion or stud owners will require the owner of a visiting mare to have a 'CEM' swab done.

CEM stands for *Contagious Equine Metritis* which is a sexually transmitted disease. A mare can harbour

the bacteria which causes CEM around her clitoris and not show any signs. Then if she is covered by a stallion he can become infected leading to fertility problems.

By swabbing mares before going to stud, carriers of

CEM can be detected.

The swab is sent by *special delivery* post to arrive at the laboratory within 48 hours. Therefore visits **should not** be booked on Fridays. The result takes about 7 working days and a certificate is produced for the stud.

Some partnership changes

At the end of 2008 we wished Mike Nathan a happy and active retirement after 30 years at the practice.

On the 1st January 2009 the practice welcomed two new partners. Farm veterinary surgeon **Peter Plate** and

equine veterinary surgeon **Julian Radburn** have now joined the partnership.

New passport legislation



Changes to the regulations concerning horse passports are expected to come into effect from the 1st July 2009.

From this date all horses, ponies and donkeys will be

required to have had a microchip inserted in addition to a valid passport.

The insertion of a microchip should be performed by a veterinary surgeon or a suitably trained person.

In anticipation of the changes, you may wish to have this done when we are examining your horse for other reasons such as vaccinations or dentistry.