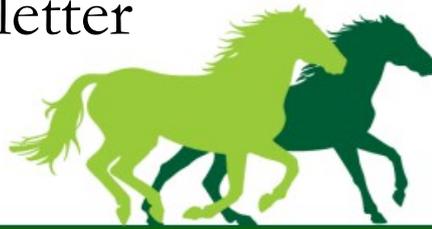


# Damory Veterinary Clinic

## Equine Newsletter



### Damory Veterinary Clinic

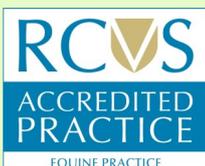
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- Stomach ulcer awareness clinic
- Spring equine client meeting
- Notes on pre-breeding tests for mares



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### Free Gastroscopy Clinic

We are running a special clinic in a few weeks to raise the awareness of stomach ulcers in horses.

There will be the opportunity to have your horse examined using an endoscope for free. This will inspect the lining of the stomach and identify if any ulcers are present.



Stomach ulcers are surprisingly common in horses. Almost two thirds of performance horses and over 90% of racehorses can be affected. Figures also suggest that 37% of leisure horses will have them.

Some signs of stomach ulcers to look out for

include:

- Intermittent colic
- Weight loss
- Mild diarrhoea
- Poor hair coat
- Poor performance
- Behavioural changes

Many horses have ulcers but show few outward signs.

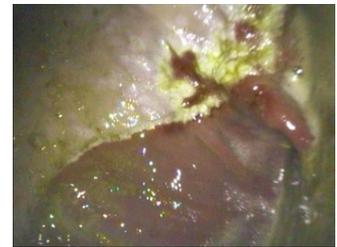
There are a number of factors involved with the development of ulcers but diet and stress play major roles.

Essentially horses normally spend most of their day eating forage. Chewing produces saliva which neutralises stomach acid. If turnout is restricted or feeding limited to short periods then gastric acid levels can build up. These will then irritate the stomach lining.

Stress of travelling and competition as well can compound the problem.

Gastroscopy involves using a flexible camera to look inside the stomach. Any ulcers present

can be detected and their severity graded.



The procedure is painless but mild sedation is often used to relax the patient.

Stomach ulcers can be treated once diagnosed. Management and dietary advice is critical. Also medication is available that reduces stomach acidity and encourages the lining to heal.

If you have any concerns that your horse could be suffering from stomach ulcers then our clinic may be of interest to you. Please contact us at the surgery for more details about ulcers and gastroscopy.

Useful information is also available at the following website:

[www.equinegastriculcers.co.uk](http://www.equinegastriculcers.co.uk)



## Spring Equine Client Evening: Farriery and the Foot

We are hosting our first client evening of 2013 on **Tuesday 5th March**.

The subject will be:

### Foot Lameness and Remedial Farriery

We are very pleased that Andy Reader-Smith a local farrier will be talking. There will be

veterinary discussions on some common causes of lameness in the equine foot and how we diagnose them.

Andy will then discuss what good farriery means and will present some case studies.

This should be an interesting and educational evening. There is likely

to be significant interest for this event so please contact the surgery to reserve your place early. Places are limited!

Once again we will be meeting at the **Brewery Visitor Centre** in Blandford Forum. Refreshments will be available from 7pm and talks will start at **7.30pm**.

## February means It Is Breeding Time

Last year we looked at **Artificial Insemination**. See our website if you missed the article.

This year we will look at some of the testing that is required prior to beginning the process of getting your mare in foal.

In the UK there are very few serious contagious diseases of horses to worry about. In order to maintain this status, we need to continually test to ensure that we don't accidentally spread a new disease around the equine population.

Covering is one of the risk periods for disease transmission, therefore before breeding there are several diseases to consider:

**CEM** (Contagious Equine Metritis) is a bacterial infection of the genitalia of mares and stallions. It can cause reduced fertility. CEM is a notifiable disease, meaning that if it is detected it must be reported to DEFRA.

Testing is done by taking swabs and sending them to a registered laboratory. Most studs require a certificate showing the mare is negative before she can breed.

**EVA** (Equine Viral Arteritis) is another notifiable disease, caused by a virus. It causes a high temperature, swelling of the limbs and face and abortion. The disease can be spread by venereal transmission. Stallions can become chronic carriers and will

infect mares they cover without showing signs themselves. Testing is by collecting a blood sample which is sent to a specialist laboratory.

**EIA** (Equine Infectious Anaemia or Swamp Fever) is a fatal, viral infection which is not normally found in the UK. Blood tests are used to ensure the disease does not become endemic.

**Strangles.** Although this is not a venereal disease, it is very serious in young horses so most studs will want to test for it before allowing new mares onto their premises. Blood tests initially can rule out infection but nasal swabs or lavage may be necessary to rule out potential carriers.

