

# Damory Veterinary Clinic

## Equine Newsletter

### Damory Veterinary Clinic

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- Summer late visits
- Laminitis campaign
- Stomach ulcer awareness month
- 'Coco' the hero!



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### Evening Summer Visits

Once again we are booking late evening appointments throughout the summer. These will run from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> September. Appointments will be available up until 8pm, Monday to Thursday evenings. Please note that these appointments are for pre-booked visits,

out-of-hours charges still apply to emergencies after 6pm.



The visits are done by the duty vet for that evening, and while we do our best to be on time, if an emergency comes in we may have to change your visit to a later time, or the next day, therefore don't book your horse's vaccine for 8pm the day it is due!!

### Laminitis Campaign



The *Talk About Laminitis* campaign is back again.

Recent studies have shown that about 90% of laminitis cases have an underlying hormonal cause. *Cushing's disease* and *Metabolic Syndrome* are the most common disorders. It's about

more than just too much grass.

Also new research indicates that Cushing's disease doesn't just occur in elderly horses. It is worth screening laminitic horses from about 10 years of age.

Until the end of June 2013, the laboratory cost of testing your horse for Cushing's disease is FREE.

If your horse is prone to laminitis or has suffered

from it recently then consider testing for the presence of underlying factors. Please contact us at the surgery if you would like to find out more and how to download your voucher.

Information is also available at:

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



## Report From Gastroscopy Clinic



This month is Equine Gastric Ulcer Awareness month. Gastric ulcers can be found in 60-90% of competing horses and cause a range of clinical signs from poor performance and dull coat to occasional colic and weight issues.



Recently we hosted a gastroscopy clinic at our Equine Unit. We examined seven horses whose owners were concerned that they could have gastric ulcers from signs they had noted.



A flexible camera was inserted up the nostril and down into the stomach. The inner lining of the stomach was

inspected and any ulcers graded according to their severity.

Five of the horses (71%) had ulcers which were considered to be clinically significant.

Both owners and vets were surprised by how common gastric ulcers were. Also some horses had mild clinical signs but much more severe gastric ulcers. The feeling is that horses are good at coping with pain so we need to be alert to mild signs of ulcers.

Most ulcers are found in the upper *squamous* part of the stomach. Normally a plug of fibrous food protects the

stomach lining from the acidic contents. When horses are fed concentrated food or deprived of grazing for a period of time, acid can splash onto the walls causing damage.

Less commonly, ulcers can be found lower down in the glandular part. Stress or some drugs such as 'bute' will reduce the normal protective barriers. Two horses had ulcers down here.

Medication has been supplied to affected horses to initiate healing and they will have their diet and management optimised to prevent ulcer development.

## Coco The Lucky Jack



On one cold morning in Wimborne, Coco's owner awoke to find his 12 year old donkey in pain displaying signs of colic. He wasted no time calling the surgery and Lars the duty vet attended soon after.

Coco had a very high heart rate but due to the

donkey's small size Lars could not perform a rectal examination.

When he did not improve with medical treatment, Lars was very concerned about the condition of Coco's intestines.

He was referred to an

equine hospital who operated under a general anaesthetic. Exploratory surgery found and was able to correct a life threatening twisted gut.

Prompt referral is a key factor in a good outcome and happily Coco has now made a full recovery.