

# Damory Veterinary Clinic

## Equine Newsletter



### Damory Veterinary Clinic

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- Top tips on breathing allergies

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## Embryo Transfer Success

Embryo transfer is a relatively new assisted fertility technique that enables a mare to produce a foal whilst still actively competing.

The biological mother (donor) becomes pregnant naturally or by artificial insemination. The developing embryo is then flushed from her uterus about eight days later.

This embryo is then implanted into a surrogate (recipient) mare. This mare then gestates the developing foal as her own and foals normally.

Meanwhile the biological mother who is not pregnant can resume athletic work.



2013 was the first year that we have been involved in this technique. A local show jumping mare was inseminated artificially with thawed frozen semen. The mare's ovaries were scanned carefully to en-

sure optimum timing of insemination.

A recipient mare was injected to synchronise her breeding cycle with the donor. The developing embryo was flushed out of the donor and into the recipient. The resulting foal was born safely and is doing well.

Can you guess who the biological mother is?



## Late Summer Appointments

Now the evenings are lighter we are once again offering routine visits until 8pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. This scheme will operate until the end of September.

Non urgent and routine work such as dentistry and vaccinations can be booked at these times.

Please note that emergency calls attended after 6pm will still incur

the normal out-of-hours journey surcharge.

Please note that occasionally it may be necessary to postpone a late visit if an emergency call comes in.

## Keeping Britain's Horses Healthy



A new national equine health initiative has been launched. **Keeping Britain's Horses Healthy (KBHH)** is a long term campaign to educate horse owners about preventative health care.

Media partners have been lined up including *Horse and Rider* magazine and *Baileys Horse Feeds*.

Watch out for competi-

tional press and social media such as Facebook.

There is a website too that has a lot of useful information about horse health generally and what's going on for the KBHH campaign:

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

Damory Equine vets are involved and you can find us on the website above.

The emphasis over the next few months is on the benefits of vaccination, particularly influenza and tetanus. Later in the year we will be hosting a client evening with a focus on equine nutrition. The needs of the older patients will be highlighted.

Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page as we will update them as new information is available.

Follow us on Facebook:



### Top facts: Summer Pasture Obstructive Airway Disease (SPOAD)

Over the Summer months a number of horses suffer from SPOAD which is an allergic respiratory disease caused by airborne dust and pollen.

The disease is similar to Winter hay allergy, now known as RAO (formerly COPD).

A few factors can help to alleviate the signs of coughing and increased breathing effort:

- Stable the horse in the day when pollen counts are higher.
- Nose nets when working may help to trap dust.
- *Ventipulmin* is a drug that opens 'tightened' airways but is less effective for SPOAD than RAO.
- Steroids are very effective. Inhalers are often used to reduce the potential side effects.