

Damory Veterinary Clinic

Equine Newsletter



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Top tips for Autumn

Autumn is now well under way and Winter is around the corner, so here are some top tips to keep your horse healthy:

- **Tapeworms:**

Unless you have had a blood test to rule out a tapeworm infection, the Autumn is a good time to target them with Equitape or Pyratape P.

- **Other worms:**

Treat for larval redworms and bots during the Winter even if worm egg counts during the year have been negative.

[See our website for suggestions on what to use]

- **Monitor the grass**

The recent wet but warm

weather has encouraged the continued growth of rich grass. Remember to restrict grazing access of ponies prone to laminitis or colic.

- **Check teeth**

Older horses can struggle more during the Winter so it is good to know their teeth are in good condition before the lean months begin.

- **Wet ground**

Problems such as mud fever and thrush are caused by prolonged wet conditions underfoot. Check the feet and part stable horses who are prone to skin infections to allow the skin to dry for at

least some of the day.

- **Rugs**

If your horse needs a rug be sure to check the skin regularly. Sores and infections can occur if horses get sweaty underneath.

- **Water supply**

Make sure there is always access to water when the temperature drops below zero. In addition some horses who are prone to impaction colic in cold weather will benefit from warm sloppy feeds.

- **Avoid acorns**

Acorns can cause colic if ponies take a particular liking to them, so fence off areas where they have fallen.



Talk About Laminitis Campaign

Hopefully not too many horse or pony owners are familiar with the painful condition laminitis which results in foot pain.

Current thinking and evidence suggests that 90% of laminitis cases occur as a result of an underlying hormonal condition such as Cushing's disease (PPID) or Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS).

Testing for the presence of Cushing's disease is worthwhile as treatment is avail-

able and will reduce the risk of laminitis. New research suggests that it is not just a disease of older horses: Up to a third of horses between 10 and 15 years old have Cushing's disease.



The Talk About Laminitis campaign is running until

the end of November and more information is available at:

www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk

A voucher is available to pay for the cost of the laboratory charges of testing for Cushing's disease.

So if your horse or pony has had laminitis then consider testing for Cushing's disease. The Autumn is a good time to do this as affected horses are easier to detect.



What's new?

Semen storage

We are asked occasionally if it is possible to 'save' the sperm of colts or stallions being castrated in case he turns out to be a superstar. A commercial service for this is now available.



Following castration the testicles can be couriered to *Stallion AI Services* based in Shropshire who will then extract the sperm and freeze them for future use. After thawing, about 50% of the sperm are live with good motility.

About 10-40 insemination doses are thought to be available depending on a number of factors. Please note that as there will have been no opportunity to assess the stallion's fertility and how well his

sperm freezes, the fertility is likely to be variable.

Such a service would also be useful for a breeding stallion who has to be put down (e.g. Following a catastrophic limb fracture).

Immunomodulator-Zylexis

Viral infections are a common cause of coughing, nasal discharge and lethargy. Until recently treatment consisted of rest from exercise and supplements to address secondary issues such as anaemia or bacterial infections.

Now Pfizer have launched a new product called *Zylexis*. It stimulates the immune system of a horse and helps to prevent the severity of viral

diseases caused by respiratory herpes viruses.

The recommendation is that horses should have their immune systems primed prior to stressful events such as competition or during a disease episode, and should be less likely to suffer from infectious viral diseases.

West Nile Vaccine

A new vaccine has been launched to prevent the disease West Nile Disease by Merial. If you are travelling abroad with your horse then we would strongly advise taking action to prevent this neurological condition.

Please contact the surgery for more information on any of these products or services.



Equine smart phone app

The pharmaceutical company Pfizer have developed a new application for horse owners with smart phones. The app is called **Stable Mate** and is currently available for iPhones.

Stable Mate has a number of features including a facility to enable owners to set up reminders for healthcare events such as worming, vaccination, dentistry and farriery.

There is also a feature called **Track My Ride**



which enables you to plot the route of your ride and measure how far you have ridden using GPS technology.

The app is available now to download at iTunes and will be available later for Blackberries and other smart phones.

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