

Damory Veterinary Clinic

Equine Newsletter

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What's New With Worming

Worming your horse is easy. Give your usual tube of wormer every three months and forget about it! However there are more factors to think about than that:

Why do a worm egg count?

Testing faeces for the presence of redworm eggs is important to identify the presence of any adult redworms that may be living in the large intestine. A 'positive' result means there are adult worms laying eggs and that horse is contaminating the pasture.

Therefore a horse which has tested positive should be wormed with an appropriate wormer such as *Equest* or *Vectin*. At Damory Vets we would recommend regular (eg every three months) faecal testing to aid the management of the pasture. Such a targeted approach to worm-

ing will also help to reduce resistance to any drugs used.



Why do I need to worm my horse if the test is negative?

If a pasture becomes contaminated, horses may eat worm eggs that develop into larval stages in the large intestine. These larvae will result in inflammation that causes a range of intestinal problems such as weight loss, colic and

diarrhoea. Ironically a faecal worm egg count from these horses may be negative if no adults are present. Larvae overwinter inside the horse's gut wall, so this is a good time to target them with a product that will kill all stages. Either a single dose of *Equest* or five consecutive days of *Panacur Guard* should be effective.

Is drug resistance an issue?

In brief, yes. Using the same wormer at an inadequate dose is a frequent cause of inducing 'superworms.' There have been no new wormer drugs on the market in recent years so it is important we use what ones we do have in a targeted way.

Welcome To Andrew

In August we said goodbye to Lars Mortensen who returned to Denmark after seven years with us at Damory Vets.

Now we are pleased to introduce Andrew Hamilton who has joined the equine team. Andrew graduated as a veterinary surgeon earlier this year

from Glasgow University and



is already finding his way around Dorset's lanes.

Professionally Andrew's equine interests include dentistry and orthopaedics but also enjoys horse riding when not working. He is a keen hill-walker and given his height is also quite handy on the basketball court!





The Laminitis Revolution 2

Cushing's disease is a common hormonal problem that increases a horse's risk of laminitis. A simple blood test will diagnose the condition and the autumn is a particularly good time to do this.

Talk About Laminitis Campaign

Vouchers are available again to redeem the laboratory costs of a blood test for Cushing's disease. They can be downloaded from:

www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk

Any horse is eligible for the voucher if it has not tested



positive to Cushing's disease previously. See our fact-sheet for details of signs of the disease to look out for.

Live On-line Broadcast

On Wednesday 9th October 2013 at 8pm there will be a live broadcast on the internet all about laminitis.

Boehringer Ingelheim has brought together three UK experts on equine nutrition,

laminitis and Cushing's disease to discuss the latest knowledge about laminitis. You can register for the free broadcast by visiting the following website:

www.bi-learn.co.uk/categories/equine

Don't forget to monitor your horse or pony's grazing now the grass is growing more.



Discounted Gastrosocopy Offer

In the Spring we hosted a popular gastrosocopy clinic for horses suspected of having stomach ulcers. We were surprised at the number of horses that did have gastric

ulcers present.

Experience has shown us that stomach ulcers often cause subtle signs such as girthing irritation and poor

performance, not just colic.

Therefore until the end of 2013 we are offering a **33% discount** off the cost of a gastrosocopy examination.

A Few Reminders For Autumn

Dentistry:

The Autumn is a good time to ensure that teeth are checked prior to the demands of winter. Digestion of forage is an important part of heat generation to keep warm in the cold so efficient chewing is a priority, especially in older horses.



Tapeworming:

Horses should normally be treated once or twice a year for tapeworms which can cause colic if an infestation builds up. A double dose of *Strongid-P* or a single dose of *Equitape* should be effective. A blood test is available to measure the level of an infestation. It can be used to decide if worming is necessary or to detect if tape-

worms could be a factor triggering a recent bout of colic.

Feeding:

Make sure you stock up on hay and hard feed that you may need when it gets colder. Remember to make any changes gradually over a few days.