

Damory Veterinary Clinic

Equine Newsletter

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- Save a date: Equine Client Evening
- Worm Egg Count kits
- Skin allergy testing
- Dental offer



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Autumn Equine Client Evening

Everyone is warmly invited to our next equine client evening which will be held on:

Thursday 2nd October

at the Brewery Visitor Centre in Blandford Forum. Refreshments from 7pm and talks from **7.30pm.**

The subject for the evening will be:

‘Caring For The Older Horse’

There will be a veterinary discussion of the problems that face older horses and how to prevent or deal with them.

There will also be a guest speaker from Baileys horse feeds who will give a practical talk on equine nutrition with an emphasis on the older horse.

Spaces are limited so please contact the surgery to reserve a place.

New Worm Egg Count Kits



With the ever increasing problem of resistance to the wormers we have available, worm egg counts are an invaluable component of any worming programme.

Performing a worm egg

count means you can identify horses which truly need worming and avoid giving medication unnecessarily to those that don't.

Our new worm egg count kits are aimed at

making testing as hassle free as possible. They contain all the materials required for taking a sample; easy-to-follow instructions; a submission form for you to fill in and a pre-paid envelope to post it in to us.

At only £10 for a single kit, or a discounted £35 for a pack of four, by switching to a targeted worming programme, you could save money and reduce worming.

Speak to one of our equine team to discuss appropriate worming plan for your needs and pick up one of our kits.



Skin Allergies: Finding out the cause

Horses commonly suffer from skin allergies and these generally manifest in one of two ways. Either itching and rubbing or developing soft non-painful lumps on the body: This is known as *urticaria* or nettle rash (see below).



Lumps on neck show where each allergen has been injected.



We have treated more cases of insect bite allergies this summer which is in part due to the increased number of flies around after the previous warm wet winter.

Usually simple measures will manage an allergy. For example

fly sheets, fly repellents and stable fans will help to reduce insect bites. However some insect bite allergies are not fully controlled or the allergy may be caused by a different allergen, such as a foodstuff or even inhaled.

In these situations it can be very helpful to perform an *intra-dermal skin test* to identify the allergen causing the problem.

At Damory Equine we have started using a test kit of around 50 allergens that are commonly encountered. These range from basic foodstuffs such as barley to pollens and insects.

The skin on the side of the neck is clipped and

each allergen injected into the skin (see photo opposite). If the allergen is contributing to the allergy a lump forms. The size of the lump is measured at time intervals.

All the data is reviewed to give a picture of what is causing the skin allergy. It is not uncommon for many allergens to be involved.

Recently one of our patients 'Lloyd' underwent skin testing and several allergens were identified. A special vaccine has been formulated which the owner has learnt to inject into his skin. This should 'calm' his allergy and make the summertime more enjoyable again for him.

Follow us on Facebook:



Autumn Discounted Dentistry

This can be a very good time of year to perform dentistry on your horse to ensure it is eating well going into the winter. This is particularly true for older horses which need extra help to get through the cold months.

Until the end of December 2014 we are offering the following discounts on equine dental work:

- Free visit to your yard if 4 or more horses are treated
- 10% discount on any

dental treatment performed

Also watch out for our Saturday morning dental clinics: More information will be on our Facebook and website pages and sign up for our e-mail updates.