

Laser Surgery and Therapy Treatment

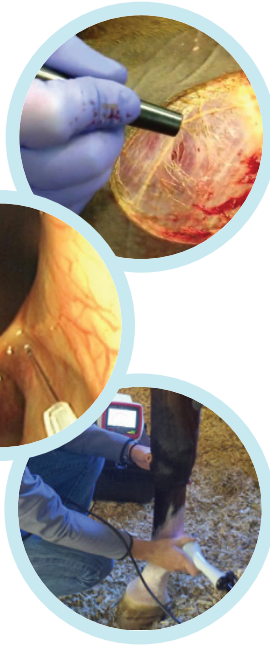
This high density diode laser is used for various surgical procedures such as sarcoid removal and upper respiratory surgery. The treatment would be carried out at the hospital under strict health & safety restrictions.

Sarcoids: The removal of the sarcoid creates an open wound of healthy tissue, this is usually a one-off treatment and can be used for most sarcoids.

The horse would be sedated and a local anaesthetic administered to numb the sarcoid. The laser cuts out the sarcoid tissue and after pain relief and in some cases antibiotics are administered, the horse can go home the same day hopefully with minimal side-effects or complications.

Upper respiratory tract: Laser can be used for both laryngeal ventriculocordectomy (Hobday) and soft palate cauterisation although results are variable compared to standard techniques. Laser is the treatment of choice for any aryepiglottic fold resection and ablation of masses in the upper respiratory tract and lower airway.

Wounds (therapy treatment): Laser therapy has been shown to be effective in modulating both principal and systemic responses involved in the complex tissue healing process. This treatment has been proven to have anti-inflammatory effect, to reduce pain and accelerate cell production and consequently the healing process in soft tissue.



Please send any suggestions for client talks in 2017 to Laura Feather laura.feather@cvs vets.com

Please continue to send in pictures of you and your horses to admin.scottdunn@cvs vets.com

We love to hear from you!

We welcome any feedback on our services please email our practice manager laura.feather@cvs vets.com

Reminder to all clients that we need a minimum of 48 hours notice for medication to be collected or posted so the treating vet can approve.

SHARED VISIT FEES

We would like to remind you that our visit fees are split equally between the number of clients seen at any one yard.

If you would like to save on your call out fees, simply contact reception and a group visit can be arranged.

Have you visited our website lately?

Keep up to date with the latest offers and advice - why not look at our 'Horse care info' tab for more information on horse care. www.scott-dunns.co.uk

SCOTT DUNN'S EQUINE CLINIC

Straight Mile Farm · Maidenhead Road · Wokingham · Berkshire · RG40 5RW

Tel: 01344 426066 · Lines open 24/7 · Email: admin.scottdunn@cvs vets.com · www.scott-dunns.co.uk

Opening Hours: Monday to Friday - 8.00am to 6.00pm

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Issue 23 :: Winter 2016

Newsletter

SCOTT DUNN'S EQUINE CLINIC



Clinical Director: Simon Knapp, LV0, BSc BVetMed MRCVS
Veterinary Surgeons: Iain McKenzie BVM&S Cert AVP (ES-0) MRCVS
Mark Cubberley BVetMed Cert EM (IntMed) MRCVS, Yolanda Serrano Ldo Vet MRCVS,
Luis Louro DVM, MRCVS, Chris Neal BSc (Hons) BVSc MRCVS, Marta Garin MRCVS

Inside this issue: Spotlight on... Winter · Laser Surgery and Therapy Treatment

Monthly Routine Visit Days

We will be running two trial routine visit days in two regions:

**South Berks/North Hants area
on the second Tuesday
of the month**

**Surrey
on the third Tuesday
of the month**

(Please speak to reception to see if you are in the specific areas covered).

Only routine work: vaccinations, teeth rasp, blood tests, microchips & health checks

Must be booked with reception by 1pm the day before

Approximate times will be assigned the afternoon before.

Please call the practice to book your appointment

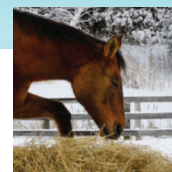
Visit fee:
£5
per client

All cancellations must be made through reception. Payment will be required either at the time of booking or on the day. Clients are unable to request a particular vet, however if you do require a vet at a certain time, then please book a separate appointment which will be charged at the normal rate.



Winter

Many horses will undergo regime changes which will inevitably impact on their daily management. This in turn gives rise to certain risk factors which should be identified and understood to avoid troubles during the winter months.



Increased stabling/cold weather

This can lead to decreased water intake, increased fibre intake and decreased exercise. This is a combination which increases the incidence of impacted colic. Horses recovering from injury or illness have an increased risk of impaction. Horses who eat straw bedding are predisposed to impaction.

Prevention

- Horses on restricted exercise or box rest should be fed a laxative diet. Salt should be added to the food to stimulate water intake. In very cold weather taking the chill off water will help. It is important to monitor water intake. An adult 500kg horse requires 30 litres per day (3 x 2 gallon buckets). Feeding wet hay and damp feed helps increase water intake.
- Regular exercise to stimulate gut motility.
- Keep warm.

Azoturia/Tying Up/ Exertional Myopathy

This is a metabolic disease which primarily occurs in muscularly fit horses maintained on a high plane of nutrition which have been rested for one or more days with no decrease in nutritional intake. Unfit overweight animals who are suddenly put into work are also predisposed to this disease. Once affected, there is an increased incidence of recurrence of this condition.

Prevention

- Management of diet and exercise regimes is the most valuable approach. Establish a strict feeding and exercise regime. If daily exercise is not achievable, reduced feed intake such as a convalescent mix should be fed when the horse is restricted.

Rain Scald

A bacterial skin infection caused typically by 'Dermatophilus Congolensis'. Predominately affects the back or areas of water run off. It is more prevalent in lean horses. Scabs form and if removed come off in a 'paintbrush' formation. This is an infectious and contagious condition.

Treatment

- Remove the scabs and treat topically with an antibiotic cream. The scab is an effective protectant and should be removed to allow access to the bacteria which in most cases is effectively treated topically.

Prevention

- Maintain horses' condition to result in well hydrated and healthy skin.
- Rug horses to protect them against inclement wet conditions.

Feeding

In cold weather horses need to increase their daily intake. This is best achieved by feeding little and often. Although an increase in the 'hard feed' ration is desirable, it must be balanced with the exercise regime to avoid 'tying up'. Ad lib hay is preferable in winter and when in the field, the feeding areas should be rotated to avoid severe poaching of the paddock.

Foot Care

Always important throughout the year, but good foot care and foot balance is critical especially when the ground is frosty. If turned out feet are less likely to be damaged.

Worming

It is advisable to worm with a drug licensed for encysted red worm larvae (e.g. moxidectin) before the start of winter to reduce the number of over-wintering larvae in the gut wall.

Mud Fever/Cracked Heels

Wet cold conditions predispose horses to skin infections such as pastern dermatitis, cracked heels and mud fever. Wet conditions result in the protective oil layer of the skin to be breached, allowing infection to take hold. Stabled horses may suffer from the condition in the hind feet due to urine scalding. Breeds with 'feathers' are more susceptible. It should be remarked that this is an infectious and contagious condition. The condition starts as a localised inflamed lesion with serum ooze and scab formation. If ignored this will progress to swelling of the legs (oedema), lameness and possibly a peculiar stringhalt type gait in some instances. In chronic cases fissures are created in the folds of skin under the fetlock resulting in cracked heels. Established skin infections in the lower limb often lead to damage to the integrity of the skin and result in horses being more prone to infection in the future. Mixed bacterial/fungal infection so unlikely to respond to antibiotics alone.

Atypical Myopathy

Although first recognised in 1942 in the UK as a severe muscle weakness and tying up syndrome in grazing horses, the cause was not identified until 2012, when the disease was linked to consumption of certain Acer species, namely the sycamore maple. Young horses appear to be more prone to the disease.

The toxin in these helicopter seeds, (hypoglycin A) triggers profound skeletal and cardiac weakness, commonly leading to death. Avoiding ingestion of the toxin is the only prevention.

Identify any sycamore maple trees adjacent to paddocks and ensure they are fenced off to avoid access to dropped seeds.

Treatment

- Early stages – remove the scab by poulticing or using warm salty water. Dry the leg and apply antiseptic cream or soothing ointment such as Silver Sulfadiazine (Flamazine).
- More severe infections should be treated using antibiotic cream containing corticosteroids such as Fusidic acid and Betamethasone (Isaderm).
- Keeping the legs clean and bandaging down to ground level will help protect against secondary infection.
- Severe cases require clipping, removal of scabs and skin debris, topical antibiotics and anti-inflammatory treatment in conjunction with a course of antibiotics.

Prevention

- Avoid turnout in muddy paddocks.
- Remove mud by washing and drying the legs or let the mud dry and then brush off.
- A waterproof protectant such as udder cream can be applied before turnout.

Keep horses in paddocks where there is adequate feed to reduce the risk of them eating from hedgerows or ingesting less palatable foodstuffs such as sycamore seeds or acorns.

Ensure adequate hay is available and feed it in the middle of the field away from any potential hazards such as sycamore or oak trees. If possible, rake up and remove seeds and acorns.

The risk of this disease increases with certain weather conditions such as stormy/windy weather increasing seed drop. Furthermore, incidence appears to increase when a wet spell follows a prolonged dry spell.