



Newsletter

SCOTT DUNN'S EQUINE CLINIC



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Inside this issue: Spotlight on... Mud Fever and Wounds



Have you used all of your HHP benefits this year?

- 👉 Annual Health Check
- 👉 Dental check with Routine Float & Sedation if required
- 👉 Annual Flu & Tetanus Vaccination
- 👉 4x Faecal Egg Counts
- 👉 Autumn Tapeworm Saliva Test with an Autumn Wormer as required
- 👉 20% discount on Lifetime Care Medicines
- 👉 10% off all Veterinary Treatments including medicines, carried out by the practice only
- 👉 Multi Horse Discount

Please note that we need a minimum of 48 hrs notice for medication to be collected or posted so the treating vet can approve.

We love to hear from you!

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



Have you visited our website lately?

Keep up to date with the latest offers and advice www.scott-dunns.co.uk

Pete Ravenhill Dentistry Clinics

We are pleased to confirm that Pete Ravenhill (from B&W) will be holding a dental clinic once a month for advanced treatments here at Straight Mile Farm. Please contact us to discuss details.

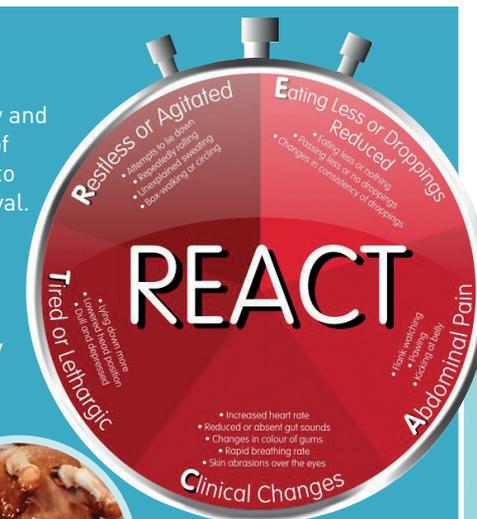
www.bwequinevets.co.uk/24/Equine-Dentistry



Colic

We have teamed up with the British Horse Society and Nottingham University to help spread awareness of colic, specifically what signs to look out for, when to worry and how to deal with them prior to our arrival. Colic is a stressful topic for all horse owners and carers so over the next year we will be releasing some articles and giving talks on the subject to help you manage it. Initially, if you could spare 5 mins of your time to complete this online survey which will go towards furthering research and contribute to the understanding of client and veterinary concerns, it would be much appreciated (link on our facebook page).

<https://nottingham.onlinesurveys.ac.uk/colic-champions-horse-owner-survey>



SCOTT DUNN'S EQUINE CLINIC

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Spotlight on...

Mud Fever



It's been a very wet winter so far, the gateways are getting muddier and mud fever can become a real problem for our four legged friends.

Mud fever, also known as pastern dermatitis or 'cracked heels' is characterised by scabs and sores on a horse's legs. It often affects pink skinned areas and may be noticed as red, sore areas of skin that may be weeping or lumpy patches often on the lower hind limbs, although any leg can be affected.

This painful skin condition is caused by bacteria, that lives in the environment, *Dermatophilus congolensis*. Wet, damaged skin provides an ideal moist environment for the bacteria to grow. Once an infection develops, this can cause the skin to be very itchy and the horse may scratch their legs, damaging the skin's protective barrier further and promoting penetration of more bacteria into the skin.

Like most things, prevention is better than cure and there are various management techniques that can be employed to prevent mud fever, and, if you horse is unlucky enough to suffer from it, ways in which it can be managed.

An obvious solution to controlling mud fever is avoiding wet, muddy conditions. So keeping gateways and field shelters mud free (try putting down wood chip in high traffic areas) and bringing horses off muddy pasture is preferable. Obviously this is not always practicable is the less than tropical English climate and for those without access to stabling!

Whilst some people favour keeping long feathers on hairy breeds, hairy legs can act as a trap for mud and create the perfect warm, moist conditions that the bugs thrive in. Clipping of hairy legs generally facilitates

keeping the skin clean and dry, and also allows better penetration of any topical treatments that may be prescribed by a veterinarian. Traditional barrier creams are not generally recommended unless they are applied to scrupulously clean and dry legs, and should be used under the guidance of a veterinarian.

Keeping the legs clean and DRY is imperative. Wet, macerated skin provides the perfect conditions for the bugs to grow and multiply, so it is no good religiously washing your horses legs clean everyday unless they are thoroughly dried too. Paper towels, old bath towels and even using a hairdryer on a cool setting are good ways of getting legs dry after gentle cleansing in a weak hibiscrub solution.

Good management practices and vigilant checking of the legs before lesions develop is often all that is required to keep mud fever at bay. More aggressive treatment with antibiotics may be required if control is not achieved; this should be discussed with your vet. Left untreated, mud fever can develop into costly complications if an infection travels up the leg through the damaged skin, causing a painful condition known as cellulitis, so if you suspect that your horse may have mud fever, veterinary advice should be sought in the first instance.



Case Study - Wounds



This 14 year old gelding ran into the gate and injured his right shoulder. He cut through a lot of muscle but luckily the shoulder joint was intact. Gloria attended and the wound was sutured immediately. It was healing well but unfortunately on day 14 the wound opened up as a result of fluid accumulation. The wound was kept clean, and Manuka honey dressing was applied. It is now healing nicely and he is starting a rehabilitation programme.

Insurance reminder – how do we deal with your claim?

- 1) **Start your claim as soon as your horse starts its treatment.** Don't wait until the treatment is complete. Most insurance companies pay out within 10-14 days, therefore they should pay you before you need to pay us.
- 2) **Send your claim form to us for the vet to complete their section.** We will then send it back to you, along with your horse's clinical history. We charge a fee for this initial report.
- 3) **You then need to send the claim form, clinical history and all invoices on to your insurance company.**
- 4) All invoices must be paid to us directly, by you, within our 28 day terms, we won't accept payment directly from your insurance company.
- 5) **We will send further invoices to you for payment, which we recommend you send on to your insurance company immediately.**