

# EQUINE NEWSLETTER

SEADOWN  
VETERINARY SERVICES

Delivering first-class veterinary care to the New Forest since 1923

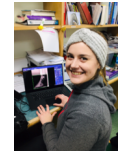
WINTER 2020

## STAFF NEWS

**WELCOME** to the winter edition of our newsletter. We would like to wish all our clients and equines a healthy and happy 2020.

Thank you to everyone that attended our client meeting in November. We are very grateful to our speakers; Clare MacLeod, who discussed the interesting subject of weight management, and to our vet Hannah Buteaux, along with special guest Jim Green, on their informative talk on the work of BARTA (British Animal Rescue & Trauma Care Association). Tickets sales and our popular raffle raised a huge £292 for the charity 'The Horse Trust'.

We are delighted to welcome to the team Karolina Kalka who has completed an internship in a large equine hospital in Belgium and most recently worked at the Animal Health Trust under the guidance of the world-renowned orthopaedic specialist Sue Dyson.



Karolina adds further expertise to our lameness and poor performance service that we run at our Clinic in Hythe.

We have a dedicated trot up, arena with Martin Collins surface and a hard lunging area to enable a thorough examination of more complex lameness cases. In conjunction with our new wireless digital radiography system, gastroscopy, endoscopy and ultrasound we can investigate a range of lameness and poor performance issues. We have stabling with 24 hour nursing care so if your horse needs to stay for the whole day or even overnight this is not a problem. Our visiting surgeon will also perform elective surgical procedures in our theatre so if you are in the unfortunate situation where surgery is required you can feel confident that Seadown can provide the best all-round care for your horse.

Our team are more than happy to undertake lameness assessments out on yards and with our equipment all being portable and battery powered we can certainly provide a high level of care out on the road too!



We say a fond farewell to equine vet Breda Mc Donagh as she leaves Seadown. Breda is off to work at the Donkey Sanctuary in Sidmouth, Devon. We wish her well in her new job.

We welcome Emilie Guyomard RVN to the Equine nurse team. She has her own horse and looks forward to meeting you and caring for your horses at the equine clinic at Hythe.

## EQUINE HERPES VIRUS UPDATE

We are pleased to hear that Crofton Manor has now had the all clear from vets and that there have been no further cases of EHV-1 virus. We understand that this has been a worrying time for horse owners, especially those that had attended Crofton Manor, and those that were in contact with potentially infected horses. Our hearts go out to those who have lost horses to this virus. To date there have been four horses put down due to the virus and all crossed, they are the last.

Vaccination is available against EHV-1, 4. It is not however licensed to prevent the serious neurological form of the disease. It is recommended for use in pregnant mares in months 5, 7 and 9 of pregnancy and in horses that are frequent competitors.

The case for vaccination can be made on a horse-by-horse basis so please feel free to talk to any of our equine vets if you require further information.



Seadown now has a new computer system and in future, we will be emailing vaccination reminders instead of posting. Please could you ensure that we hold the correct email address for you?

## MICROCHIPPING- NEW LAWS!!

Remember that new legislation comes into force this year. All horses and ponies must be micro chipped by Oct 2020. Just phone reception to book your horse or pony in. The procedure can be tagged onto another procedure such as a dental examination or a vaccination on a zonal visit to make it more cost effective.

**Microchipping offer-£25 per chip, or £20 each if microchipping 5 or more horses. (Visit fee applies)**

## Tommo rocks on after eye operation

A 21-year-old Welsh cob named Tommo was rushed to Seadown Veterinary Services' equine hospital in Hythe, near Southampton, with – as his owner described – “his left eyelid dangling by side of his face”. A thorn had caused the injury that had torn Tommo's eyelid margin. If left untreated it could have led to irritation to the surface of the eye and corneal ulcers.

Thankfully, one of Seadown's equine vets was on the scene within the hour and referred Tommo to the nearby hospital.

On arriving at Seadown, Anna Jennings, Seadown's ophthalmology vet and a practice director, was on hand to take over the treatment.

She said: “Luckily, the wound was still very fresh when my colleague was called out to examine him. He was admitted to our equine hospital that evening, where he underwent surgery under standing sedation to repair the damage.

“Fortunately, the eyelid healed well and without any complications.”



Before and after

## New testing for small redworm

We can now offer a new blood test to detect the presence of small redworm in your horse or pony. This test can give us information on the presence of this worm in the lining of the horse's gut. As most of you may know encysted small redworm is not picked up by routine worm egg counts, hence why we advise at least annual treatment with moxidectin (Equest). However as we are increasingly aware of worm resistance, we as a practice are trying to reduce our use of chemical wormers. This is only possible in certain equines on particular grazing regimes and will not suit all yards. However if used, the blood test can identify whether your horse is “at risk” of having high levels of small redworm in the gut and therefore if worming with moxidectin is advisable. If your horse has a “low risk” result then worming for redworm may not be necessary at this time. The optimum time for testing is September to December however the test can be performed from January through to April if the optimum time has been missed. This blood test can be performed on zonal visits. Please call the practice for further information or to book your horse in.



## What is Equine Herpes virus?

Equine Herpes virus (EHV) is a highly infectious viral disease that can affect any horse at any time and may recur after just a few months. EHV is widely acknowledged as a major cause of respiratory disease, and is the most commonly diagnosed cause of infectious abortion in pregnant mares, it can also cause paralysis.

### How is EHV spread?

EHV is spread from horse to horse, mainly through the infective virus being coughed into the air and inhaled by other horses close by. Once infected with EHV, horses become carriers of the disease. Although they may show no symptoms themselves, they can intermittently shed the virus and infect other horses in the area. Excitement or stress can often cause shedding - horses travelling to events/competitions are particularly at risk. EHV occurs throughout the UK.

### How will I know if my horse EHV?

As with many other viral conditions, the first sign is usually a fever, where the temperature can rise as high as 41°C/106°F. Other signs include: A dry cough (often less harsh than that seen with 'flu'), depression/lethargy, nasal discharge (watery to thick), ocular discharge, swelling and hardening of the sub-mandibular lymph nodes (under the jaw). If you notice any of these signs and think your horse may be infected with EHV call your vet immediately.

Your horse may develop viral pneumonia, which can be fatal for foals. Secondary infections with bacteria may occur leading to bronchopneumonia.

EHV can also cause abortion of unborn foals, this usually occurs in the last half of pregnancy and the foal is usually born dead. Foals infected in the womb, and born alive, usually die shortly after birth.

### What will happen if my horse is infected with EHV?

Your horse will be ill for some weeks before it is fit enough to resume a normal exercise regime.

Unfortunately, natural infection does not stimulate much immunity against re-infection, therefore your horse may become infected again after just a few months. Once infected, many horses become carriers, which means they will shed the virus, infecting other in-contact horses.

EHV also causes immunosuppression, which means your horse's ability to fight off infection will be reduced, which may lead to infections with other viruses and bacteria causing further suffering and loss of use.

### How can I prevent my horse from contracting EHV?

Your vet will be able to explain further the vaccination programmes available to help in the prevention of the respiratory forms of the disease and to aid in reducing the risk of abortion cause by EHV infection.

Vaccination alone is not enough to prevent infection, management also plays a major role in preventing and controlling the disease, i.e. good stable management (hygiene), prevention of over-crowding, avoiding stress and isolation.

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We hope you enjoy our newsletter and find the information helpful, however it should not be used as an alternative to professional veterinary care. If you have any concerns regarding your horses' health please contact your surgery.

