

JANUARY 2025



EQUINE NEWSLETTER

100 YEARS OF VETERINARY SERVICES

DENTAL DAY 22ND JAN

We are having another dental day on 22nd January

These will once again be 1-hour long appointments, available for 6 clients to bring their horse into the Hythe hospital for a thorough oral review, dental rasping, and an oroscopic exam.

Time slots start at 9am and are on a first come first served basis.

An oroscope (video exam) is a specialised camera that we use to look at the mouth in detail - it will let clients see the 'before and 'after' and we can use it to highlight any areas of interest and monitor things within the mouth.

This is going to be offered on this day only for £80, including sedation.

Dentals are so much more than just 'rasping the sharp points' and our hope is that this will be a great way for you to see the work and knowledge that goes into keeping your horses and ponies mouths as comfortable as possible.

As these days are so popular please BOOK YOUR SLOT BY CALLING OUR HYTHE HOSPITAL



INSOL DERMATOPHYTON - 'THE SWEET-ITCH VACCINE'

Sweet-itch is a common problem affecting horses and ponies, caused by an allergic reaction to the saliva of biting midges. These midges like hot, humid climates and, in the UK, they tend to be active from February until late Autumn when temperatures drop. Affected individuals show signs of intense itching, especially of the mane and tail. Persistent rubbing and scratching causes loss of hair and damages the skin, which becomes inflamed, perpetuating the itchiness and entering the horse into a vicious cycle. Management is targeted at breaking this vicious cycle, and then preventing it from starting again.

Conventional management recommendations:

- Fly rugs and barrier creams can be used as a physical barrier to prevent midges reaching the skin and biting, but fly repellent sprays/ointments can be used to deter them as well.
- Midges breed in standing water, so avoid keeping affected individuals near ponds, woodlands, drainage ditches etc, be sure to regularly clean water troughs.
- Midges are poor-flyers and are deterred by light winds, so keeping affected individuals in fields that are exposed to more wind can be beneficial.
- Midges are most active at dawn and dusk, keeping affected individuals stabled during these times can limit their exposure. Fitting mesh barriers to stable windows can be of further help.
- Washing affected individuals with soothing shampoos can help to calm inflamed skin.
- Antihistamines can be used to reduce itching, and severely affected individuals may require steroid therapy.

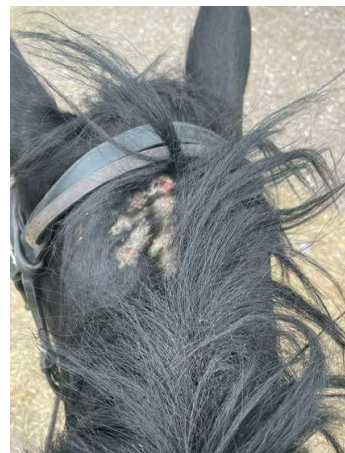
Insol Dermatophyton vaccine:

The Insol Dermatophyton vaccine was originally developed as a vaccination against ringworm but, in some individuals, it improved the clinical signs of sweet-itch as well. The reason for this is not currently understood, but its off-licence use in affected individuals is becoming increasingly popular.

Horses and ponies are given a course of 2 injections, 4 weeks apart. The course should be given in Feb-Mar each year, before the midges appear and the itching cycle starts, or it can be repeated every 9 months for ongoing protection.

The vaccine cannot be given within two weeks of any other vaccines and cannot be used in pregnant or lactating mares.

If you are interested in using the Insol vaccine in your horse or pony, please call the practice and ask to speak to one of the equine vets.



PRACTICE NEWS

Alice Swetnam Marries

We are delighted to share a photo of Alice's special day when she married James (Loving the other four legged guests). We send them all our congratulations and wish them every happiness in the future



MESSAGE OF THANKS

Thank you to everyone who attended our "Winter client evening". We're sure you will agree the talks from Alice regarding strangles and use of the new vaccine and Jim Green from BARTA were excellent. Plus we managed to raise £155 for the Horse Trust. Following on from our evening we would like to offer the initial 2 Strangles vaccination (2 dose 4 weeks apart) at a reduced price of £75 for both vaccines.

If you would like to discuss the use of the vaccine in your horse/pony or donkey, please call the practice and speak to one of our team.



Equine Dental Care and Reducing the Risk of Impaction Colic

Dental care is an essential part of your horse, pony or donkey's healthcare and should be assessed at least every 12 months, with some conditions requiring more frequent visits. Equine teeth are different to ours, as the adult teeth continue to erupt over the horse's lifetime. This can lead to sharp points which cause ulcerations of the tongue and the inner cheek, or dental overgrowths, all of which can prevent the proper chewing and grinding of feed, affecting the ability to digest food. Foul smelling breath and dropping food can be signs of a dental problem and should be checked.

At this time of year, during the winter months, the horses' turn out to pasture can decrease and the diet can include more hay or haylage. Well maintained teeth are especially important to help reduce the risk certain types of colic, such as impaction colic.

An annual dental check and rasp under sedation is included on our Horse Health Programme.

Impaction Colic

Impaction colic refers to the accumulation of feed or other dry matter within the gastrointestinal tract, which ultimately causes a blockage of the digestive tract. This, in turn, causes discomfort and pain for the horse, and can lead to the classic signs of colic.

Risk Factors for Impaction Colic

A change in management of the horse, for example increased box rest, dehydration and altered gut motility. In the winter, with the snow and frosty weather, horses can be less active and are more likely to be stabled for longer periods of time. Also, when the water is cold, horses tend to drink less, which can lead to dehydration. If a horse has dental issues and is not chewing properly, this further increases the risk for an impaction colic.

Clinical signs of colic

Clinical signs of impaction colic include reduced faeces output, smaller size faecal piles, dry faeces and occasionally mucus covered faecal balls. Colic signs vary and can include a different demeanour, off feed, lying down more, rolling, pawing, sweating, flank watching, restlessness.

How To reduce the risk of Colic

- Allow access to a salt lick
- Ensure water is always available, in icy weather break the ice frequently, try floating a ball in the water trough to stop it freezing. In very cold temperatures, adding warm water to the horse's bucket can encourage water intake. You can also try adding a little sugar free apple juice to another bucket of water to encourage your horse to drink.
- If possible, turn out as much as possible in winter or hand walk frequently. Maintain a regular exercise/riding out routine as much as possible, weather permitting.
- Soak hay, adding water to the horse feeds, feeding little and more often, can help increase water intake.
- Monitor the consistency and the number of faecal piles your horse passes on a regular basis.
- Make any changes to the routine and the diet slowly.
- Please call your vet immediately if your horse is showing signs of colic.

Veterinary treatment for colic can include:

- A complete clinical examination, including a rectal examination to help diagnose the presence of an impaction.
- Nasogastric tubing to administer water and electrolytes – this helps soften the impaction, provides hydration and promotes gastrointestinal motility.
- Feed and hay can be withheld for a time, to prevent further accumulation of feeds and worsening of the impaction.
- Occasionally, more severe impactions require intravenous fluid therapy and further care in a clinic setting.





Horse Health Programme
Your Passion. Our Priority

- ✓ Flu/Tetanus vaccination
- ✓ Routine dental rasp with sedation if required
- ✓ Annual health check
- ✓ 4x faecal worm egg counts
- ✓ Autumn tapeworm saliva test
- ✓ Annual worm risk assessment
- ✓ Appropriate winter wormer if needed
- ✓ Multi-horse discount of £1 off per month
- ✓ 10% discount on veterinary treatment and medicines
- ✓ 20% discount on selected lifetime care medications

£15.99
per month

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LYMINGTON: 4 Avenue Rd, Lymington Tel: 01590 672027
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Find us on 



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.

