

PROUD TO BE AN INDEPENDENT EQUINE PRACTICE OWNED BY VETS

HEAD OFFICE: 64 FORE STREET, NORTH TAWTON, DEVON, EX20 2DT

MEDICATION COLLECTION POINTS: OKEHAMPTON, HATHERLEIGH AND HOLSWORTHY

TEAM NEWS

Hayden and Charlie own 'a leg' of Point to Pointer 'Young Buck' who successfully won his open race at Lamerton point to point.

We might need to go hat shopping and get a day at Cheltenham Festival next year if he keeps running with such great form!!



WORM EGG COUNTS

With coming into the grazing season, this is always a good time to do a worm egg count for your horse.

If you bring in a fresh same day dung sample to one of our surgeries by 11am, we can perform a worm egg count and our vets can then advise on the best programme for your horse based on the result.

Please allow 24hrs for results to be reported.

EQUUS VETS NEWSLETTER APRIL 2024

What's New?

As a practice we are passionate about helping the next generation of veterinary surgeons enter the world of becoming an equine vet. We have recently joined forces with Surrey University where we take on students throughout the year to experience first opinion equine practice. Our vets really enjoy teaching the students and we are lucky to be able to introduce them to a variety of different patients and cases. A comment which is constantly raised by the students '**What lovely clients you have**'. So, thank you very much for being so accommodating, we all need young equine vets joining the profession!

With a slow start to the season due to the weather, the point to point season is now well under way. Hayden is senior vet at a lot of the local point to points. If you see the Equus team at one of the point to points we would love you to come and say hello! We wish all our racing clients the best of luck with the rest of the season. We are also providing cover at a number of endurance rides in Devon and Cornwall.

As always, we are very grateful for all our lovely clients continued support. We look forward to seeing you and your horses this year.

MAY OFFER - FOOT BALANCE X RAYS

Ever wondered what is going on inside your horses' hooves?

FOR THE MONTH OF MAY WE ARE OFFERING A REDUCED RATE FOR FOOT BALANCE X RAYS – WE WILL BE OFFERING THEM AT £200 incl VAT

(visit & sedation if required will be an additional cost)

As the saying goes 'no foot, no horse'. Foot x rays can be an additional tool for your farrier to liaise with one of our vets to ensure that your horses' feet are balanced in the best possible way for maximum performance.

If your horse has suspected laminitis or been diagnosed with laminitis, foot balance x rays can give an insight into how the bones in the feet are positioned & whether they are being affected so that the best management advice can be given.

Please call our reception team should you have questions or want to avail of this offer on 01837 214 004.

Providing you with a dedicated and experienced team of equine only vets, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week covering Devon and East Cornwall

01837 214004 – info@equusvets.co.uk

FIRST AID

Managing Wounds

Small wounds can often be managed without veterinary intervention. Wounds may require veterinary attention if they are:

- Deep and affecting structures under the skin.
- Large, including if there is a skin flap.
- Bleeding profusely or bleeding that will not stop when pressure is applied for 3-4 minutes.
- Over a joint or tendon.
- Causing a lameness.
- Near other important structures such as the eye.
- Have a foreign body that cannot be removed easily.
- Infected.

For wounds that do not require a veterinary visit, they require cleaning with either very dilute hibiscrub or iodine. Wounds near eyes should not be cleaned with hibiscrub, which can damage the eye.

Once cleaned, the wound needs to be kept as clean and dry as possible. Most small wounds do not require bandaging.

Antibacterial products such as silver spray can be applied to help prevent infection.

EQUINE METABOLIC SYNDROME

Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS) is becoming more frequently diagnosed, particularly in ponies with laminitis.

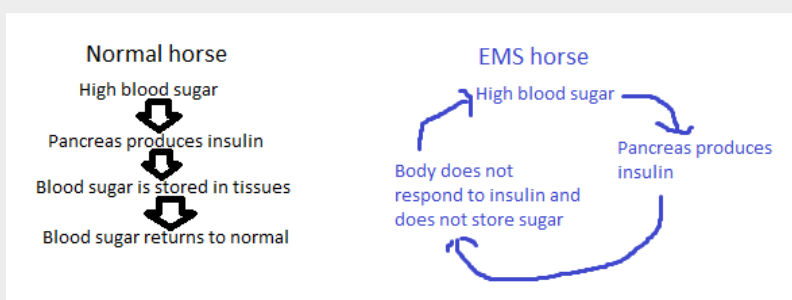
What is Equine Metabolic Syndrome (EMS)?

Equine metabolic syndrome is a hormonal disorder of horses similar to type 2 diabetes in people. In horses, the main characteristics are:

- Obesity, abnormal fat deposition (fat pads) and difficulty losing weight.
- Recurrent episodes of laminitis.
- Insulin resistance.

How does insulin resistance link to EMS and laminitis?

Insulin is a hormone produced by the pancreas in response to high blood sugar levels. It causes the body to store the sugar, thus returning blood sugar to a normal level. In horses with insulin resistance, the body does not respond properly and does not store the sugar, creating persistently high blood sugar levels. In response, the pancreas produces more insulin, worsening the problem. This inability to store and use sugar properly increases the risk of laminitis.



How is Equine Metabolic Syndrome Diagnosed?

EMS is typically diagnosed by:

- Clinical signs: fat pads, difficulty losing weight, laminitis.
- Blood test: most commonly insulin levels are tested. If they are high, this often indicates the body is not responding to insulin as it should, and insulin resistance is likely present.

How is Equine Metabolic Syndrome Treated?

For mildly affected horses, increasing exercise and managing diet to help weight loss is sufficient. For others, medical treatment is required. This is usually ertugliflozin or canagliflozin, which cause the sugar to be excreted in the urine. This in turn allows the insulin levels to return to normal and 'resets' the body's metabolism. For most horses, treatment is only required for the short term and horses can then be managed with diet and exercise.

CORNWALL AREA DAYS

w/c 6th May 2024

w/c 20th May 2024



Do you know what your horse's temperature, pulse rate & respiration rate should be?

TEMP – 38 C or 100.4 F
PULSE – APPROX 32 TO 36 BPM
RESPIRATION RATE – 8 -12 BPM

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