

**DECEMBER 2007**

**Happy Christmas and a prosperous
New Year to all our clients.**

Over the Christmas period our office will be closed on 25th and 26th December and 1st January. Otherwise we will be operating as per normal. We will be available 24 hours a day (as usual) for emergency cover.

WEB SITE

We have re-launched our web site with a new look and much useful information. You will find new and updated information about our services, equipment, and our team of vets, nurses and support staff, lots of veterinary advice and pictures. This web site will be updated regularly and will advertise our 'Client Talks'. You will also be able to download our Newsletters and Information Sheets.

www.cliffequine.co.uk

PLEASE VISIT US SOON!

Cardiology and Internal Medicine

Cliffe Equine is pleased to inform you of our new and improved services following the arrival of Dr Eduard Jose-Cunilleras. With our continued commitment to investment in the latest diagnostic equipment and Ed joining our team we now offer a full equine cardiology referral service.

Ed graduated in 1997 and comes to us having worked for several years in the US where he gained a Diploma in Equine Internal Medicine. He spent time at the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket and in practice in Lambourn. Ed's immediate goals are to promote the cardiology and medical services at Cliffe Equine within the clinic and as part of our ambulatory team by providing expertise in ailments of performance and pleasure horses alike.

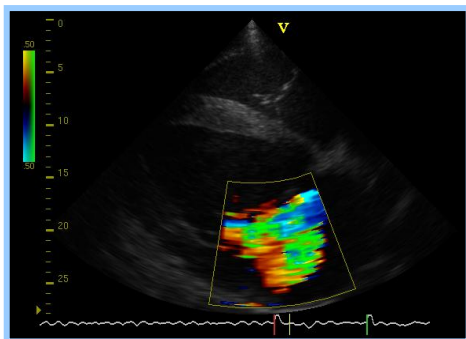


We have recently acquired a portable digital ultrasound with full cardiac capabilities including colour flow doppler. In addition, we have invested in a digital radio-telemetric ECG that allows recording resting and ridden exercise cardiac rhythm as well as 24h holter ECG.

The heart has 2 top chambers and 2 bottom chambers, each of which is separated by valves that open and close with each heartbeat to allow for effective blood pumping and "one way" flow around the heart. The left side of the heart works at high pressure (relative to that in the right side) and receives blood from the lungs and pumps it to all of the rest of the body. Because of its high pressure, a "leak" in the mitral valve (that between top and bottom chamber in the left side) or in the aortic valve (that between left bottom chamber and the outlet from it) can be very significant. Similarly, some forms of arrhythmia or "misfiring" (lack of regular heart beating) will render the heart a less effective pump and could be a risk to the rider or lead to clear symptoms of heart disease.



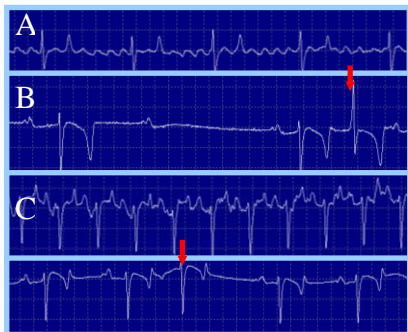
Exercising ECG, note electrode pads.
Recorder is just in front of the saddle.



Severe mitral valve regurgitation, note turbulent jet (green) into left atrium.

In echocardiography or a “heart scan”, ultrasound waves (sound waves of high frequency) are sent into and received from the heart and displayed on screen as a real-time picture. With Doppler ultrasound, the direction and speed of blood flow is measured (in the same way a speed gun measures the speed of a car) and displayed on screen with bright colours and the extent to which a heart valve may “leak” is clearly defined. An ECG (electrocardiogram) is a trace recording of the heart beating, not just a heart monitor. Until recently ECGs could only be performed at rest, but the advent of small digital ECG recorders allow detection of arrhythmias or “misfiring” heart problems during ridden work. This ECG stores the heart beating signal into a memory card and sends it via Bluetooth to a laptop for real-time examination.

Horses with moderate to severe mitral regurgitation, those with aortic insufficiency of any grade, those with an irregularly irregular heart rhythm or cardiac symptoms may require full echocardiography and ECG at rest and during exercise. With a detailed cardiac examination the likely risk of ridden work for the horse and rider, possibility for treatment (e.g. atrial fibrillation without significant underlying cardiac pathology) and long-term prognosis can be assessed. A heart murmur picked up during a pre-purchase examination is another scenario in which a full cardiac evaluation with echocardiography and ECG may be indicated to assess its likely significance.



ECG for ridden work, the size of small mobile phone.

CLIENT TALK

‘THE EQUINE EMERGENCY AND WOUND FIRST AID’

Wednesday 16th January 2008
at the Roebuck Inn Laughton

Talk starts at 7.30pm

Please phone the office for your free ticket. (01323 815120)



Staff News

Penny Brownings our Head Nurse is now a qualified Equine Dental Technician having passed the joint British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and British Veterinary Dental Association (BVDA) exams in September (being the first Veterinary Nurse to have done so). She is now a member of the British Association of Equine Dental Technicians (BAEDT).

We have been joined by 2 new members of clinic staff. Juliet Booth has joined us as a trainee veterinary nurse involved in all nursing duties at the equine clinic. Sarah Albone is our new yard assistant and is responsible for all stabling and care of horses at the clinic.

BEVA approved centre for AI (chilled & frozen)

If you would like any information about artificial insemination or breeding, or information about our competitive breeding packages please phone and speak to Karl Holliman or Imogen Silhan-Sutton.

Cliffe Veterinary Group, Equine Clinic

Harbens Farm, Mill Lane, Laughton, Lewes, East Sussex, BN8 6AJ

01323 815120 enquires@cliffeequine.co.uk

www.cliffeequine.co.uk

