



UPDATES IN BRIEF

- Focus on colic
- Cliffe Equine is now an RCVS Tier 2 accredited practice and a BEVA registered clinic for AI
- Special offers on Wormers
- Cliffe Equine News
- Visit & vaccination Updates
- Case study: Colic due to worm related intestinal damage.

NORMAL CLINICAL PARAMETERS

Heart rate	28 - 40 beats/min
Resp. rate	8 - 16 breaths/min
Body temp.	37-38°C 99-100.5°F
Gum colour	Pale pink & moist
Capillary refill	Less than 2 seconds

With special thanks to **VETOQUINOL** for sponsoring this edition of the Winter Newsletter.

Focus on Colic...

Colic is not a specific disease or even a diagnosis but is a broad term simply meaning "tummy ache". It indicates the horse has pain, usually, but not invariably, originating from the intestinal tract. Horses with abdominal pain behave in a variety of ways:

- **Mild pain:** occasional pawing; flank watching; stretching out or lying down for longer than normal.
- **Moderate pain:** restlessness; pawing; cramping & attempts to lie down; kicking at the belly; lying down and/or rolling.
- **Severe pain:** sweating; violent rolling; dropping to the ground; continuous movement or pawing.

Such behaviour is not limited to horses with true colic & many signs are seen in other painful conditions unrelated to the gastrointestinal tract i.e. "false colic". For example, severe cases of tying up; laminitis; uterine torsions & aortoiliac thrombosis may present with colic



signs.

The majority of colic cases are associated with disruption of normal gut motility from factors such as diet, management & parasites. In addition the design of the intestines in some areas predisposes to obstruction.

Routine worming, including using worm egg counts; rasping of your horse's teeth; slow changes of diet & management can all help to reduce the risk of colic.

Examination of the colic patient involves checking the heart & respiratory rates; temperature; guts sounds; mucous membrane colour as well hydration status. Other techniques may be used

to aid diagnosis e.g. rectal exam, stomach tubing, belly tap & blood samples. A treatment plan & decision about the need for surgery is made on the basis of these findings.

Treatment aims are to control pain; prevent endotoxaemia; normalise intestinal movements; soften & facilitate passage of faeces as well as correction of dehydration.

Analgesics (painkillers), sedative drugs, spasmolytics, laxatives, motility stimulants, fluids & anti-inflammatories are used in a variety of combinations for colic treatment. Many colics are of the milder type & respond very well to medical treatment. However, the unpredictable nature of colic means that at the very least, it is always sensible to ring the vet for advice.

Should surgery be necessary, Cliffe Equine has an experienced surgery & intensive care nursing team on standby 24hrs a day to ensure your horse has the best treatment as soon as possible.



The New Year brings changes to Cliffe Equine Clinic, including changes to the office, nursing & veterinary staff. Not only has Claire had Penny Brownings' help manning the fort while on her road to recovery; but she has also been joined by two new faces to reception; Wendy & Natalie. Wendy previously worked at Hobgoblins Stud and Natalie previously worked at Ardingly Showground.

Cliffe Equine Clinic News

On the nursing front we have sadly lost Juliet to the ski slopes of France, after which she is going on to begin a veterinary degree & fulfill her dream of becoming a vet!

We are delighted to welcome both Hannah Fielding, who worked previously at Plumpton College & for the Harbens Farm rehabilitation before joining us to expand her interest in veterinary nursing; and Frankie Payne, who comes to us from the Lewes team to further her interest in the equine nursing discipline.

Last, but by no means least, Luke Poore MRCVS joins us to complete the vet team. He comes to us from Edinburgh University following his Residency in Equine Surgery. He and his wife are local to the area and soon you may well see him bombing about the field out hunting!

Finally, Jess Dicks is departing Cliffe Equine to complete the rest of her travels far and wide over the next few months. We have all enjoyed working with her & wish her luck in the future.

CLIFFE EQUINE



CHEAP VISITS- FOR ALL (FROM 1st FEBRUARY 2009)

£9.50 VISIT FEE

In addition to our usual services we will be offering a scheme where one of our equine vets will be working within a visit zone. This means that on a regular day each week you will be able to book a visit for routine work within that zone and only pay £9.50 for you visit. So with a little planning you can save money on your veterinary bill.

Appointments must be booked at least one working day prior to the visit, and are only to be used for routine work, e.g. vaccinations, re-examinations, dental work etc. Non-routine visits that do not qualify for this offer included urgent same-day visits e.g. wounds; or cases that require more detailed work or extended time, e.g. yard lameness investigations or castrations.

Specific times for visits cannot be guaranteed, however we will always try to accommodate your request for a morning or afternoon visit when possible.

For further details, including a map to find out in which zone you are in, and on which weekday your routine yard visit day is, please visit our website www.cliffeequine.co.uk, or ring the clinic to speak to the office staff on (01323) 815120.

EQUIMAX £15 each!!

Offer on Equimax wormer until April 1st

Price includes VAT

A factsheet on a guideline to worming can be found on the website: www.cliffeequine.co.uk

VACCINATION UPDATE

Cliffe Equine Clinic is now using a new vaccination against influenza and tetanus. The Equip brand has been replaced by **Equilis Prequenza & Prequenza TE**. This vaccination is the new generation of ISCOM vaccinations, which steer away from using a based substances in their product. What this means is there is a far lower chance of vaccination reactions occurring in your horse. There is no change to the vaccination dates or their prices, however horses will now require a tetanus booster every second year instead of every third year. All our vets will be happy to discuss any questions or queries you may have.



Luke Poore

BSc (Hons) MA Vet MB MRCVS

Luke is joining our Veterinary Team at Cliffe Equine and we welcome him to the Practice on January 5th.

Luke grew up in Sussex and graduated from Cambridge University in 2000. He completed an 18 month internship at the Bell Equine Veteri-

nary Clinic and then stayed on as an assistant for a further 18 months. After working in two other busy equine practices, Luke was awarded a Senior Clinical Training Scholarship in Equine Orthopaedics and Surgery at Edinburgh University which he has just completed. His interests are orthopaedic disorders and surgery. He has just completed an MSc evaluating an equine gait analysis system.

You can contact Luke on :

07831 256564

equine.vet@cliffeequine.co.uk

XMAS QUIZ NIGHT

Many thanks to all of you who managed to brave the cold to come to our annual Xmas quiz. We hope that you all had a very enjoyable evening. We are delighted to announce that we raised £182 in total for the **Sussex Pony Grazing and Conservation Trust**.

CLIENT TALK

BREEDING FROM YOUR MARE & FOAL CARE

Speaker:

Imogen Silhan-Sutton BVetMed MRCVS

We will cover:

- ◆ Breeding plans
- ◆ AI (including Frozen)
- ◆ Care of the Pregnant mare
- ◆ Foaling
- ◆ Foal care

Wednesday 4th March 2009

7.30pm

The Roebuck Inn Laughton

Please ring the clinic on (01323) 815120 to reserve your FREE ticket. See the website for full details and directions.