

CLIFFE EQUINE CLINIC  
MILL LANE, LAUGHTON  
EAST SUSSEX, BN8 6AJ



September 2009

**UPDATES IN BRIEF**

- Focus on Equine Passports
- Cliffe Equine is now an RCVS Tier 2 accredited practice and a BEVA registered clinic for AI
- Two new dates for your diary
- Cliffe Equine News
- West Nile Virus & Worming
- Microchipping: new regulations

**VETS CONTACT INFORMATION**

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Sally	07736
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[www.cliffeequine.co.uk](http://www.cliffeequine.co.uk) (01323) 815120—24hr veterinary care

## Focus on Passports...

As you may be aware by now the 1st July 2009 brought new changes to the regulations regarding equine passports and microchipping.

In 2004 the horse was reclassified from a domestic animal, (pet) to an food producing animal. In accordance with the laws applicable to other food producing animals, e.g. cattle, sheep etc., all drugs given must be recorded in a passport. The passport scheme is designed to prevent dangerous drugs entering the human food chain.

Because very few horses from the UK will ever enter the food chain, there is an "opt out" in section IX. *The owner must sign the declaration to state whether the horse is or is NOT intended for slaughter for human consumption.* Until you have signed to declare the horse is NOT intended for consumption, we as vets are legally obliged to treat the animal as if

it is to enter the food chain.

There are certain drugs which vets are NOT permitted to administer if this "opt out" declaration has not been signed. Common drugs include 'bute (Equivalazone) and some antibiotics.

Once you have declared your horse NOT intended for human consumption, there is nothing more you need to do. So next time you call out the vet, or need to collect medication, please have your passport with you so you can sign section IX. We will countersign this and keep a record for the future to minimise inconvenience.

A summary of the new regulations that are particularly relevant to horses under our care

follows below:

All equines (horses, ponies and donkeys) MUST have a passport, which includes section IX (medicinal treatment section). This means even your very old pony that isn't ever leaving home has to have a passport.

All foals born after the 1st July 2009 must be microchipped when first identified. This must be done before the 31st December in the year of its birth or by 6 months of age, whichever is the later.

All adult horses applying for a passport for the first time must also be microchipped at the time of identification.

Vets must, by law, ask for the passport before they can treat the animal. This is to ensure the correct medication is given and recorded appropriately.

*Remember, you will be asked to present your passport at your appointment or when you collect drugs from the clinic, so that we can ensure your horse is treated correctly and we comply with the law.*



Cliffe Equine has recently joined the XLVets group. This is a group of progressive veterinary practices that seek to define the highest standards of veterinary care. Along with striving to achieve the best service for our clients, XLVets members are also frequently involved in fund raising for charity, specifically those related to the agricultural industry.

The latest challenge is to cycle, along with two (not real) calves, (one from Orkney & one from Penzance), to the Livestock Show

## Cliffe Equine Clinic News

in Stoneleigh, Warwickshire, raising as much money as possible along the way for two farming charities. Our leg of the journey is 100 miles at least! The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institute (RABI) supports members of the UK farming community facing need, hardship or distress. Farm Africa is an international charity, providing training & support for poor rural communities to identify their needs &

implement appropriate solutions to the key problems they face.



The staff members at Cliffe will be cycling on a static bike at the clinic on **Tuesday 15th September 2009** covering a minimum of 100 miles! Please come over to the clinic to show your support to us (& laugh!) on the day, or sponsor us at your next visit or anytime online at [www.justgiving.com/xlvets](http://www.justgiving.com/xlvets).

# CLIFFE EQUINE



## SPECIAL OFFER

**EQUEST PRAMOX YEAR WORMER PACKS**  
AVAILABLE NOW FOR **£50 PER PACK**

Please ring the clinic now to order yours - (01323) 815120

## WHAT IS WEST NILE VIRUS?

West Nile Virus is a viral disease transmitted by mosquitoes. This disease spread rapidly across the United States & has become an ever increasing threat to horses across Europe. Following outbreaks in 2008 throughout Italy it is considered endemic in USA and Italy. As it is a notifiable disease, any horse infected with the virus needs to be reported.

Infected birds, migrating to Africa from Europe, are the source of the disease. When mosquitoes bite an infected bird, they too become infected. The disease is passed on when they feed on a horse, person or other animal. The disease is not infectious, so infected horses or people do NOT spread disease between themselves.

Signs of disease are similar to other viral infections, however severe disease can cause swelling of the brain and spinal cord (encephalitis). These horses can show other signs, e.g. inability to swallow, impaired vision, head pressing, convulsions & death.

There is no specific treatment, so prevention is key. Controlling mosquito exposure is important & there is a vaccination available for peace of mind.

The primary course is 2 injections, 3-5 weeks apart, with annual boosters. The vaccine is proven in the face of an outbreak & is safe for pregnant & lactating mares. **As a special introductory offer we are launching the vaccination with £10 off, at a price of £39.** Please ring the clinic for more information.

## NEW DEFRA REGULATIONS ON MICROCHIPPING

The passport scheme for all equines has been in effect now for some years, but a recent alteration has been made. A European Regulation states that all equines registered **after 1st July 2009** are subject to compulsory microchipping.

While this requirement is not retrospective for older horses, microchips provide an essential link between a horse and its passport, strengthening existing horse identification requirements. Such unique identification of equidae may also prove useful for disease control and surveillance purposes and for the recovery of lost or stolen horses.

Implanting a microchip is done by injecting the chip halfway down the left side of the crest of the neck. Most animals do not resent this procedure more than routine vaccination.



## Scanning an implanted microchip

We are offering the microchipping service for **£15 per horse**. This fee includes both the chip itself, implanting it and also completing the paperwork. This offer runs until the end of December 2009 and applies to any horse or donkey, not just those born after 1st July.

If you are unsure about these regulations or other aspects of the equine passport scheme, look at [www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/horses](http://www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/id-move/horses) or please ring the clinic on (01323) 815120.

## CLIENT TALK

### WEST NILE VIRUS - DOES IT AFFECT YOU? WORMING - AN UPDATE

We will be hosting an additional client talk at Plumpton College with the kind help of Fort Dodge to give you an insight into the emerging disease caused by West Nile Virus. We will also be giving a short talk to help review your worming knowledge.

**WEDNESDAY 7th OCTOBER 2009; 7.30pm**

### Farriery Evening Hosted by Cliffe Equine Clinic

Cliffe Equine Clinic recently hosted a very successful clinical meeting for vets & farriers, held at Plumpton College, a good opportunity for the two professional bodies to meet. Vets & farriers throughout East & West Sussex came to exchange ideas & opinions on a variety of issues.

Luke Poore (MRCVS) started the evenings talks by outlining the "Vets Perspective to Foot Balance"; whilst Ross Eager (DipWCF) followed on by discussing the "Farriers Perspective". It was interesting to hear about his point system for scoring feet which records subtle changes over time. Ross has found this invaluable in long term cases & has implemented it at The Liphook Equine Hospital, where he spends one day a week.

Vets & farriers speak regularly regarding foot related issues & lameness. It is vital we discuss the case with as much information as possible. With the advent of digital radiography our nurses can email x-rays of your horse's feet to your farrier, ensuring your horse has the benefit of both the vet's and farrier's perspective.

## CLIENT TALK

### CARING FOR THE OLDER HORSE AND PONY

Speakers:

Mrs. Sally Hall BSc (Hons) MA  
VetMB MRCVS

Mrs Penny Brownings RVN BAEDT

Including talks to cover:

- Arthritis
- Cushing's Disease
- Laminitis
- Dental disease
- Weight control & Feeding advice

**Wednesday 11th November 2009**

**7.30pm**

**Rural business Centre  
Plumpton Agricultural College**