

BISHOPTON

EQUINE VETS



Bishopton Equine Veterinary Services Ltd

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February Newsletter



We are expecting to be treating horses with fully evolved webbed feet within the decade given the fact that we are perpetually under water... A few things to mention in this months newsletter, the only thing missing is the evening meeting we're running (or may have run depending on when you read this) on the 4th March. Many thanks to TopSpec® for their support and Boehringer Ingelheim for their sponsorship.

Vaccination amnesty – not quite as busy as the end of last February...

This year's VACCINATION AMNESTY will run throughout March (and we'll honour those performed at the start of this month). The amnesty means that all horse that are restarting their course of primary vaccinations with Bishopton Equine against equine influenza will be given the 2nd VACCINE FREE OF CHARGE.

The usual visit fees will apply, but this is a great opportunity to get your horse or pony covered for 'flu if they have lapsed, or use it to start a new horse. Many thanks as ever to MSD Animal Health for supporting this initiative.

Although the national picture is very different to this time last year, equine 'flu is still circulating and six month vaccines remain best advice for all horses that are out competing. For FEI and many of our local competitions this is still compulsory – you must have had a vaccine within the last 6 months from date of competition, with 21 days grace (don't rely on that!).



*Do remember though - as long as the **basic vaccination regime** stays within the **annual date** you don't have to restart if you miss a six month booster.*

ACTH monitoring tests



Boehringer are still promoting their website 'Care about Cushing's' and the monitoring tests that they provide. Whether they've made it too complicated we're not sure, but our Rep Meg was lamenting the fact that our clients are not taking advantage of it.

The voucher pays the cost of the lab fee - if you need any help filling it out let us know.

Ulcer survey – Norbrook

John will post a risk assessment survey for gastric ulceration on Facebook sometime in the next week or so. Hopefully your horse won't flag as high risk, or some simple management changes will help, but it's always worth thinking about the signs. One that is commonly ignored is low grade pain. Even mild arthritic pain or foot imbalance can cause debilitating pain and ulcers as a result.



Strangles serology – brief update

The use of blood testing for exposure to strangles bacteria is a really useful tool to reduce the spread of the disease. Many of our livery yards and competition yards test all horses prior letting them move in.

There has been some discussion recently in the veterinary press regarding the validity of using the antibody levels in the blood to find 'carriers'. Simplistically, we have always explained it as a *positive titre either indicating ongoing infection or carrier status*. It does now appear that a few carriers do not produce a systemic response measurable in the blood and consequently may not be picked up – ie 'a false negative'.



If this is the case then we need to be even more vigilant in considering the risks from horses – the obvious question always being where are they moving from? However, the blood test still remains the best hope of detecting infected horses or carriers prior to movement – better to test and catch the majority than miss one for not sampling.

Update on Sunley Raines Site...



A few pics courtesy of John...

With luck we will be in and operational by the start of the summer. We are all really looking forward to having a bit more space and being able to run more in practice clinics, work-ups and assessments.



The easiest way to get in touch is to email us at equine@bishoptonequinevets.co.uk or call the surgery on 01765 602396.

