

IN THE NEWS - Central Equine Database

In the wake of the recent horsemeat scandal, Northern Ireland has fast-tracked the implementation of a central equine database to store information on all equidae. The system is part of the already operational Animal Identification and Movement database which records information of cattle, sheep and pigs. As of the weekend of 4th/5th May, information has been gathered from passport issuing authorities. The information from the database aims to complement the checks already in place at slaughterhouses. Unfortunately, mainland UK does not have an equivalent database due to a lack of funding closing the National Equine Database in 2012. The Irish government minister responsible for the database also remarked that he hopes a single passport issuing authority can be established. Watch this space for further developments, which are certain to be heading our way!

Source: Farmer's Guardian/British Equine Veterinary Association

What is an SQP?

Did you know that the Barn Veterinary Practice have a number of qualified veterinary nurses who have undergone training to be SQPs and ESQPs?

An SQP is a suitably qualified person ('E' is an equine specialism), who is entitled to prescribe/supply certain prescription only medicines. In order to become an SQP you must follow a formal study course and pass a set of exams. Many equine products are being re-classified as POM-VPS (prescription only) which mean many shops will stop selling them due to a lack of qualified personnel. Other products may be classified as NFA-VPS which means they are not prescription but may only be dispensed by a vet/pharmacist/SQP. Our ESQP is also trained to carry out faecal egg counts and interpret the results, ensuring the best possible treatment is prescribed for your horse.



**The Barn Veterinary Practice
Equine Newsletter**

Zone Visits

The new Zone Visit system, offering FREE visits, is now well under way, with many of our equine clients registering for it. If you haven't registered already, send us an email confirming your name, your horse's name and where they are stabled. A reply will be sent confirming your zone and which Wednesday of the month you will be able to book your FREE visit. By far our most popular zone is the West zone. This area encompasses the area mainly around the practice and our first zone day saw 12 horses seen by the visit vet! Make sure you book in your next zone visit early as the days are filling up as much as two months in advance! Below are some of the things you may wish to book a zone visit for.

dentistry

vaccinations



microchipping

sedation

lameness workups

poor performance exams

any pre-planned work

15% OFF BLOOD TESTS

Is your horse underperforming?
Have they lost condition?
Are you concerned about their general health?



Book a visit to have your horse blood tested and receive 15% off the normal price of the test! Blood tests can diagnose a multitude of conditions from anaemia and liver problems to kidney disease and infection. Please consult with your vet to decide on the most appropriate test for your horse.

(Available through June/July/August, not available in conjunction with Cushing's test offer)

The Barn Veterinary Practice now has its own page on Facebook. The page is in its infancy at the moment, but it is already getting a good following. Various competitions, puzzling questions, offers and more are posted on the page. It is our intention to post interesting cases (with an owner's permission), create discussions and post events or products of interest to our clients. If you haven't already 'liked' the page, make sure you do so you don't miss out on some super offers coming up soon. Press Ctrl and click on the image to the right to find our page!



barnequine.copdock@zen.co.uk
01473 730213

SUMMER OFFER



Laminitis

Does your horse/pony suffer from **laminitis**?

For many years, it has been thought that the major contributing factor to laminitis in the horse was ingestion of lush pasture, especially spring grass. New research suggests that up to 90% of laminitis cases may be caused by an underlying hormonal problem. The two main underlying hormonal conditions are Cushing's Disease and Equine Metabolic Syndrome. With these underlying conditions, a bout of acute laminitis may only be triggered by horses grazing a lush pasture. Laminitis is an extremely painful and debilitating disease caused by inflammation of the hoof laminae which can be a welfare issue for horses and extremely frustrating for owners. Luckily, Cushing's Disease can be diagnosed by a simple blood test, if a horse tests positive, treatment can be initiated and hopefully reduce if not eradicate further bouts of laminitis, in addition to appropriate management changes. *Boehringer Ingelheim* is waiving its laboratory fees until the end of June when submitting samples for Cushing's testing. So, why not take advantage of this great offer and try and get to the bottom of your horse's laminitis for good! We have already had 3 confirmed new cases! Book in a visit for a blood test as soon as possible, if you miss the end of June deadline, why not book in on a Zone Day to keep costs down. Visit the website www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk to download your free test voucher today and to learn about Cushing's Disease and Equine Metabolic Syndrome.

Worming - The Responsible Approach

Many of you took advantage of our free Worm Egg Count offer last season which is very encouraging. Responsible worming is becoming extremely important if we want to continue having effective wormers available to us. By blanket worming every 13 weeks we can inadvertently select for resistant worms. Worm egg counts are the best way to see if your horse needs worming and if it doesn't, why waste the money on a wormer!? The Barn Veterinary Practice can still carry out worm egg counts for you for only £7.45, a fraction of the cost of a wormer, should your horse have a low egg count. Drop in a faecal sample to the practice and we'll do the rest.

And finally, when it comes to worming remember to be SMART horse owners.....!

New Arrivals

Two of The Barn Veterinary Practice's clients have had exciting new arrivals since the Spring edition of the newsletter. Catherine and Julian of Layham, have taken delivery of four female alpacas named Frar, Corde, Snow Lilly and Atalanta. Three of the four females (known as Hembras) are pregnant, so we're all looking forward to their due dates. Did you know, when a female alpaca gives birth, it is often called 'un-packing'? A baby alpaca is called a 'cria'. Watch this space for pictures of the newborn cria!

There is another new arrival for the Slatter family of Moat Farm, Chattisham who have rescued two ponies who had been abandoned near Cardiff. Much to the family's surprise one happened to be pregnant when she arrived! 'Mia' as she is now known had her foal on 25th April who is yet to be named. Congratulations Mia!



barnequine.copdock@zen.co.uk
01473 730213