

### IN THE NEWS - Vets on Strike!

In early November 8000-9000 vets marched in Paris to strike against new government restrictions imposed on administering drugs. The two French politicians involved, Health Minister Marisol Touraine and Agriculture Minister Stéphane Le Foll, agreed to meet them but, despite the offending section of the law being deleted, the vets continued their strike to ensure that it was not reinserted later. The restrictions imposed intend to limit the use of antibiotics, which need to be brought under control due to the rising potential risk of antibiotic resistance. French ministers say that a government programme over the last five years has seen a 40% reduction in the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine. The question we in the UK have to ask is, how long will it be until we have restrictions put on our use of antibiotics and what will it mean for our treatment of infections in horses?

# The Barn Veterinary Practice Equine Newsletter

## IMPORTANT PASSPORT CHECKS

The government is cracking down further on the use of drugs such as phenylbutazone (bute) in horses. As a practice we now must ask that we see your horse's passport when we visit. This only needs to be done once and then a note will be added to your horse's account to say we have seen it. Within each passport there is a section which can be signed to say the horse will not enter the human food chain. This is the important part we need to see.

Failure to produce a valid passport to verify this will mean a lengthy form must be filled out, but this is only for emergencies where your horses welfare is at risk. At more routine visits where treatment is needed, we may not be able to medicate your horse until a passport is seen.

We appreciate your cooperation in this matter and hope it will not cause too much trouble, we are all going to have to do our bit to prevent another horse meat scandal. If it is easier for you, by all means bring your horse's passport down to the surgery before you need a visit.



### Coming Soon

In the next few months our website  
[www.barnvets.com](http://www.barnvets.com)  
will be having a revamp

Remember to like us on Facebook too!  
Find us on facebook



Keep checking the site which will soon have a dedicated equine page which will enable clients to register on-line as well as keep up to date with the latest information regarding zone visits. Online versions of this newsletter will also be available in case anyone deletes the email by accident!

The rest of the website will be full of information about the practice and all the contact details you need for both routine and emergency services. We hope you like it!

The website should be going live in the New Year, so keep your mouse poised on the 'refresh' button!



### Vaccination Reminder

This is a reminder for all our clients that took advantage of the superb vaccination offer in the Summer newsletter. If your horse started their course of three flu and tetanus vaccinations in November, they are entitled to receive their second vaccination in December **free of charge**, giving a saving of over £40! Please ring in and book your second vaccinations in if you haven't already. Your horse's third vaccination will be due five months after their second (150-215 days post second vaccination for Jockey Club Rules)

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, it is always important to vaccinate your horse against equine influenza and tetanus. Many owners only vaccinate against tetanus if their horse isn't required to be vaccinated for flu (competitions etc). Although this is acceptable, fully vaccinated horses will help prevent the spread of outbreaks of equine influenza. This year alone has seen outbreaks of equine influenza in Ayrshire, Northumberland, Hertfordshire, Northamptonshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire, East Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Cheshire, Cardiff and Lanarkshire.



If your are worried about equine influenza, there is a service provided by the Animal Health Trust on Twitter giving up to date information regarding outbreaks in the UK and abroad.

Follow @Equiflunet on Twitter to get involved.

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## Seasonal Worming

## Remember tapeworm, encysted small redworm and bots

We would like to remind horse owners of the importance of tackling the threats of encysted small redworm, tapeworm and bots this autumn and winter. None of these parasites will show up in a standard faecal worm egg count so need to be treated on a targeted basis, by using the correct wormers at the right time of year.

Encysted small redworm are one of the most persistent and dangerous parasites to affect horses in the UK. Encysted small redworm are larval stages of the small redworm that have buried into the lining of the gut where they lie dormant for a period of time. They can pose a potentially fatal health risk but won't show up in a standard faecal worm egg count. It's important to make sure that encysted small redworm are treated properly during late autumn or winter otherwise they may develop and emerge en masse from the gut wall in the early spring and could lead to a disease syndrome known as 'larval cyathostomiasis', causing diarrhoea and colic with up to a 50% mortality rate<sup>1</sup>. Young horses (< 3 years of age) are particularly susceptible to this condition; however, all ages can be affected. It is recommended that all horses receive a treatment for ESRW during the autumn/winter, regardless of the faecal worm egg count<sup>2</sup>.

Bots are the insect larvae of the bot fly and are a common adult parasite found within the horse's stomach. The female bot fly can lay up to 1,000 distinctive yellow eggs on the hair on your horse's legs and shoulders or around the eyes, mouth and nose. Infection can show as mouth irritation or ulcers or stomach irritation. It is recommended to administer a wormer licensed for the control of bots in the winter, after the first frost when the adult flies have died and before the bots mature.

Tapeworms are white, flattened, segmented worms which can grow up to 20cm in length. They are usually found at the junction of the small and large intestine in your horse and use suckers to attach themselves to the gut wall. They can result in a number of health-related problems, ranging from loss of condition to diarrhoea and colic. An infected horse has been shown to be 26 times more likely to develop ileal impaction colic than a non-infected horse, and eight times more likely to experience spasmodic colic<sup>4</sup>.

The accepted method for tapeworm control is to break the cycle by using a wormer specifically licensed for tapeworm about every six months<sup>5</sup>, traditionally in the spring and autumn.

Worming can be confusing and complex, not least because of the jargon that's sometimes used and the complicated names of the chemical ingredients of wormers. Why not speak to your vet or our SQP (Donna Hammond RVN) at the practice to make sure you get your winter worming right this year, to help keep your horse in the best health.

1. Dowdall S.M.J. et al (2002) Veterinary Parasitology 106, 225- 242
2. Nielsen (2012) Veterinary Parasitology, 185, 32-44
3. AAEP (2013) Parasite Control Guidelines
4. Proudman CJ Journal of Equine Veterinary Science (2003) 23 (1) 6-9
5. Proudman and Matthews, In Practice (2000) 22, 90-97



## Meet Marvin! Loving Home Needed

Earlier this year, the Slatter family in Chattisham re-homed 2 Welsh (C) Cobs who were abandoned and found near Cardiff. Unbeknown to them and the rescue charity, one of them was pregnant! Marvin arrived 8 weeks later.

Marvin now needs a new home of his own and we were wondering if anyone can help?

Marvin was weaned at the end of October. His mum is a gentle soul and has obviously been used as a brood mare previously, she is 13.2hh Section C. His dad? Who knows, we think possibly a Section D. Marvin should make 14hh if not bigger and would make a beautiful ridden or driving pony. He has been gelded and wormed up to date and has also started his tetanus course.

If anyone is interested, please can you ring 01473 652633 His new home will be vetted by the WPRRP, which is the charity through which his mum came. A long term loan would also be considered if anyone has a youngster they need a companion for. Marvin at 4 months old



Why not ask the vet to bring your wormers when we come to see your horse? Alternatively, ring the practice to discuss your individual requirements.



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