

**In the News - Keep horses away from Sycamores, Blue Cross urges**

After a recent rise in the number of cases of Atypical Myopathy the Blue Cross are urging horse owners to be vigilant and ensure their horses do not have access to sycamore seeds. The seeds contain a toxin, hypoglycin A, which if ingested in sufficient quantities can be fatal. There have been 12 cases of AM so far this spring, half of which have proven fatal. Symptoms of AM include, depression, lethargy, muscle weakness and dark red urine. Try and avoid grazing your horse in fields containing sycamore trees when they are dropping their seeds, pull up saplings growing in fields and always provide your horse with forage if grazing is sparse. If you suspect your horse is showing signs of AM, call us immediately.



**Picture Perfect Ponies!**

Our new website is going to require a number of pictures to liven up the equine pages. We'd like to invite clients to send in one or more of their best horsey pictures to us. The best photos will be used on the website and the rest will be printed out to create a display in our Copdock surgery waiting room. Pictures should be of good, printable quality and can be emailed to the address below. If any of your photos have a veterinary theme, even better! It will be nice to see our patients and clients out and about doing what they do best!



**The Barn Veterinary Practice  
Equine Newsletter**

**TENDRINGSHOW**  
ESSEX COUNTY'S PREMIER AGRICULTURAL EVENT



**Saturday 12th July 2014** Show starts at 9am

**All day at Lawford House Park, Nr Manningtree, Essex**

- Over 250 Tradestands & Exhibits
- Large Countryside Area
- Lifestyle & Art Show Marquee
- Main Ring Entertainment
- Huge Food Hall
- Livestock & Equestrian Shows

**A great day out for the whole family!**

As well as purchasing tickets from the usual outlets you can purchase tickets on-line at [www.tendringshow.co.uk](http://www.tendringshow.co.uk)



**RIDEAWAY**

**PROVIDING FOR ALL YOUR EQUESTRIAN NEEDS**

01473 807405  
07587 152509

ride-away@sky.com  
[www.rideawaysuffolk.co.uk](http://www.rideawaysuffolk.co.uk)

Rideaway is a local, family run business providing good quality products within a budget! Their shop stocks a variety of products and they are always happy to order things in. Services provided include hat and body protector fitting, rug repairs, personalised embroidery on jumpers/coats and lots more! The shop is situated at 307 Norwich Road, Ipswich, IP1 4BW.

**DON'T FORGET!**

to participate in the  
**The National Equine Health Survey**

the survey will run from  
**18th -24th May 2014**

to register for the survey, visit [www.bluecross.org.uk/NEHS](http://www.bluecross.org.uk/NEHS)

There are prizes to be won!

We are encouraging all our clients to register



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# Hot Topic

## Equine Grass Sickness

EGS is a potentially fatal condition with a mortality rate in excess of 85%. Despite decades of research we are still not certain what causes it. Clinical signs of EGS include colic, difficulty swallowing, reduced appetite and depression. The current theory is that ingestion of a bacterial toxin could be responsible for the onset of disease. The bacteria that produces the toxin, *Clostridium botulinum*, is from the same family of bacteria as those causing tetanus (*Clostridium tetani*). Horses at greatest risk are grazing animals between the ages of 2 and 7. Most cases are seen in Spring, the highest incidence being in May. Cases often occur on premises previously effected by the disease. Interestingly, horses in 'good' body condition are at a higher risk of contracting the condition.

EGS may present as either suddenly (acute) or come on gradually (chronic). The chronic form has a survival rate of around 50% depending of the severity of disease. Horses often require intense nursing treatment. Chronic EGS usually presents as chronic and profound weight loss.

With the link to *C. botulinum* in mind, the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket are currently undertaking research into a vaccine for the disease. At present they are inviting horse owners to enrol their horses on the study. Take a look at their website for lots of EGS related information and requirements for enrolling on the study. Perhaps this will be the breakthrough researchers have been searching for!

[www.equinegrassickness.co.uk](http://www.equinegrassickness.co.uk)



## Free Cushing's Disease Testing



Many clients have expressed an interest in testing their horse for Cushing's Disease. Once again Liphook Equine Hospital in cooperation with Boehringer Ingelheim are offering free of charge testing for Cushing's Disease. Please ring the surgery to discuss with a vet whether your horse would benefit from this. The offer ends at the end of October 2014

NB: Only laboratory fee is free of charge

## Dates for your Diary

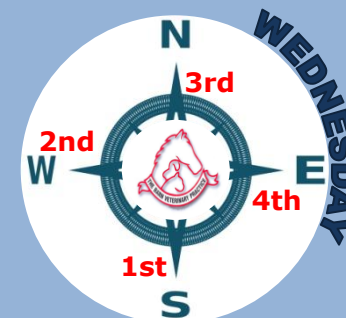
- 14th/15th June  
Stratford Hills British Eventing Weekend
- 29th June  
Hopkins International Polo in Suffolk  
Trinity Park, Ipswich
- 12th July  
Tendring Show  
Lawford House Park, Nr. Manningtree, Essex
- 20th July  
Help for Heroes Charity Showing Show - Tophorn Equestrian Centre, Stonham Aspel (class sponsored by Barn Vets).



## Zone Visits

### One Year Anniversary

We have now been offering free zone visits for a year! The time has flown by but they seem to be as popular as ever! We are hoping to continue them providing there is still a demand so make sure you book yours in early to avoid missing out! Here's a reminder of the weeks you can book in, if you are unsure of your zone, just ring the practice and we'll let you know.



## Vets on Vacation

(alright a working holiday)

All vets are required to keep up to date with current treatments and research and as part of this, two of our equine vets, Mark and Annaliese are off to Liphook Equine Hospital, Hampshire, in June on an intensive 3 day course. Courses such as these ensure we continue to offer up to date diagnostics and treatment for a wide range of equine conditions including EMS, COPD, Cushings disease, choke, dentistry, back problems, skin disease and much more! We'll keep you posted on any interesting findings!

**Your Views:** In the next few weeks/months we will be sending an email out to all our equine clients to get some feedback on certain aspects of our equine services, including this newsletter. Have a think about any suggestions you may have to improve it, any ideas will be gratefully received. The email sent out should contain a link to a survey which will be very short. We would really appreciate your feedback.



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