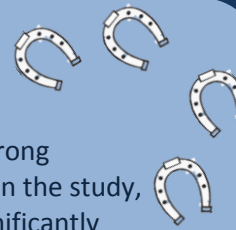


## In the News: Get Your Saddle Checked! '30% of horses having saddles checked yearly still have ill-fitting saddles!'



A newly published study looking into the effect of ill-fitted saddles has shown a strong connection with back pain in both the rider and horse. Of the 205 riders involved in the study, 43% had ill-fitting saddles, of which 14.6% had saddle slip. The saddle slip was significantly associated with hind limb lameness and gait abnormalities. 38% of riders had back pain which again was associated with ill-fitted saddles and either a reduced airborne phase of the step in all four limbs or a stiff, stilted canter, suggesting pain.

Source: Saddle fit and management: an investigation of the association with equine thoracolumbar asymmetries, horse and rider health L. Greve and S.J. Dyson, Centre for Equine Studies, Animal Health Trust, Lanwades Park, Kentford, Newmarket, Suffolk, CB8 7UU, UK.

## @ The Barn

It's been a very busy Summer at the practice with many people off work over the holidays, there's more time to enjoy our pets. But, unfortunately, mishaps do happen and need urgent veterinary attention. Visit days have been busy, surgeries fully booked and operating theatres buzzing.

Once again we were the attending veterinary surgeons for the Tendring Show, but thankfully the day went without a hitch. We have now been providing veterinary services for the show for over 20 years!

Last month everyone had to look their best for a photographer taking pictures for our new website. I know we promised it would be live soon, it's just taking a little longer than expected. It will definitely be worth it!



## Autumn = Time To Treat Tapeworm

It's that time of year again

Along with regular worm egg counts we strongly recommend giving your horse a tapeworm treatment in the Spring and Autumn. Faecal worm egg counts do not detect tapeworm eggs so, rather than costly blood tests to detect tapeworm infection, it is generally considered good practice to treat preventatively.

Between the months of November and March, encysted roundworms also need targeting. Mass emergence of these in the Spring can cause serious health problems.

Make sure you know what worms you are treating for!

## 25% OFF ALL WORMERS

Once autumn is upon us, bring in a small fresh faecal sample and see which is the most appropriate wormer to give your horse this Autumn

If you purchase your wormer directly from us before 31st December, we will take 25% off the purchase price!

Offer starts 1st September and ends 31st December 2014. Worm egg counts are charged as normal (£9.60). One wormer per horse.

# The Barn Veterinary Practice Equine Newsletter

## Results of The National Equine Health Survey

Thank you to any owners who took part in the Blue Cross's survey into equine health which took place in May. Over 10,000 owners took part. The number of participants was the highest yet! Some interesting results have been reported and can be found on the Blue Cross website or following the link:

<http://www.bluecross.org.uk/files/nehs-report-may-2014.pdf>

The survey found:

- The prevalence of laminitis has **doubled** in comparison to 2013
- There has been a 170% increase in the number of cases of Cushing's Disease compared with 2013
- Lameness in general is the most common health problem, affecting 1 in 5 horses
- Sarcoids are still the most common skin tumour but melanomas are a prevalent problem
- Prevalence of obesity in horses remains lower than expected from literature. Compared with 2013, there was still an increase in the number of horses considered overweight
- The ratio of medical vs surgical colic cases remained 6:1 in line with 2013

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## Choke

Choke is a common presentation in equine practice, it is usually caused by ingestion of food of either abnormal consistency or a foreign body (corn cob). Greedy horses, horses fed at irregular intervals or those with poor/abnormal teeth may be at higher risk. Small breeds such as Shetland Ponies are a higher risk due to the fact their oesophagus is much smaller.

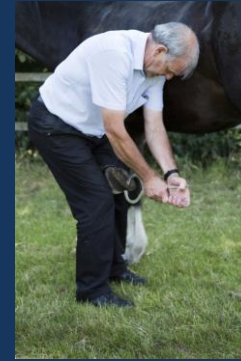


Clinical signs of choke include: anxiety, distress, arched neck, retching, salivation, food material coming from nostrils, regurgitation, coughing, drinking water/spluttering, distended neck (obstruction)

The treatment for choke varies depending on the severity of the episode. The majority of choke cases resolve spontaneously without veterinary intervention some need a stomach tube passing to aid the movement of the obstruction. Some horses may need drugs to relax the muscles of the oesophagus or sedatives to calm them and keep their head low to the ground. Pain relief is sometimes given if the obstruction is likely to have caused damage to the oesophagus.

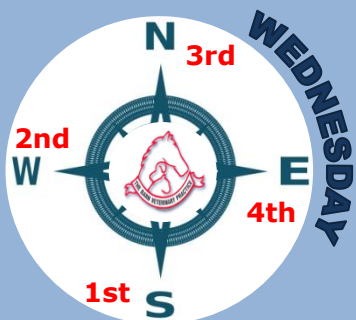
### Choke is not an emergency but can look very dramatic!

Prognosis is generally very good after an episode of choke, although some severe cases can get strictures of the oesophagus which are caused by scar tissue forming. Strictures can lead to further bouts of choke. Rarely horses may inhale particles of food which can cause a pneumonia.



### Zone Visit Schedule

(cut out and keep with your passport/diary)!



### Free Cushing's Disease Testing

As per the Summer Newsletter, the offer is still running. We have had another couple of ponies test positive for the disease.

The offer ends at the end of October 2014

NB: Only laboratory fee is free of charge



### Dates for your Diary

Burghley Horse Trials: 4-7th September, Stamford, Lincolnshire

Saturday 6th September: 16/24k pleasure ride, Boyton Hall EC, Monks Eleigh (Endurance GB)

Sunday 7th September: 11 mile sponsored charity ride at Old Hall Estate (formerly Shrubland Estate), Barham, Ipswich

Sunday 14th September: Long distance (14 miles) sponsored fun ride at Shelley, Shelley Centre for Therapeutic Riding, nr Hadleigh

more information at [www.horsedates.co.uk](http://www.horsedates.co.uk)/[www.horseeventsuk.com](http://www.horseeventsuk.com)



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