

In the news: New fly-grazing Act comes in to force

As of Tuesday 26th May, any horses found fly-grazing can be dealt with within 4 days of the police informing an owner. Previously this could take 2 weeks. The Control of Horses Act 2015 makes changes to previous laws aimed at deterring people from illegally grazing horses or simply abandoning them on public/private land. Previously abandoned horses could be 'disposed of' via sale at market or public auction, now horses can be sold via private sale, gifting or rehoming. By allowing abandoned horses to be rehomed quicker, it is hoped that owners will be encouraged to take proper care of their animals' welfare. It is thought that as many as 3,000 horses are illegally fly-grazing across the country!



@ The Barn

After a brisk Spring, we're bracing ourselves for the busy Summer period. Appointment/visit slots fill up quickly during school holidays, so book in early! In mid May we said goodbye to Anna, one of our small animal and equine vets. Anna has been at the practice for 4 years, during which time she has advanced our internal medicine diagnostic capabilities a great deal through studying for a certificate in advanced veterinary practice. She leaves us to go to a practice in Essex, we wish her well in her new adventure. Abi, our student veterinary nurse has now completed her year in industry and has returned to Harper Adams University to complete her training. Keep an eye out for new faces at the practice over the next few months! We now have staff profiles on our website. Take a look at www.barnvets.com. The website also has up to date news articles which may be of interest to you.



BACK IN STOCK!

After a long period out of stock, Cooper's Fly Repellent is back. If you would like to order a bottle, please contact either surgery. Orders placed before 7pm will usually be ready for collection by lunchtime the following day. Many clients swear by Cooper's, so why not give it a try?!



£31.71

COMPETITION



The Barn Veterinary Practice has recently placed 4 signs on a roundabout somewhere in Ipswich. **Can you tell us where?**

Entries via our Facebook page please!

Prize: A hamper of goodies suitable for your chosen pet
(winner will be selected at random from all correct posts)

**The Barn Veterinary Practice
Equine Newsletter**

Tending Show

As usual we will be providing veterinary services for the Tending Show. We have been doing so for nearly 30 years. Keep an eye out for practice staff and good luck to any of you entering the show!



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.tendingshow.co.uk



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Sweet Itch

It is estimated that around 50,000 horses are affected by skin allergies in the summer months. The most common type of skin allergy is sweet itch. But what exactly is it? The majority of sweet itch cases are as a result of a hypersensitivity to the bite of the *Culicoides* midge. After being exposed to the saliva of the midge, an allergic horse will launch a Type 1 hypersensitivity reaction. This means that their body's immune system will produce a chemical called histamine. When histamine is released from a tissue it causes heat, swelling and itchiness. This is a very similar to the process which happens in people suffering from hay-fever. Just like in people suffering from an allergy, horses get a great desire to itch, often using fence posts/trees to rub on. This in turn can damage the skin barrier and lead to nasty skin infections.

What can be done to prevent it?

- Environmental control: Keep susceptible horses away from damp pasture/woodland, midges favour these areas. A windy hillside is a great, midge free area.
- Time management: Midges are most active at dawn and dusk, keep horses stabled at these times.
- Use full-body fly rugs and masks.
- Put fly screens on stable doors.
- Fit a fan in the stable, midges cannot fly in wind speeds exceeding 5mph.
- Use fly repellents, there are many on the market, find one that suits you and your horse.
- Anti-histamines can be used in horses but can be costly, speak to a vet if you think your horse may need these.



Treatment: In the event that preventative measures haven't worked, the vet may need to be called. Steroids can be used to reduce swelling/itchiness but come with a long list of possible side effects. If bites have become infected, antibiotics may be indicated.

Trust me.....I'm a vet!

A recent survey of 2,000 members of the public by ICM has found 94% of the British public trusts their veterinary surgeon 'generally' or 'completely.' This puts vets above GPs, dentists and head teachers. In terms of placing, the veterinary profession came third overall most trusted, just behind opticians. The survey also found that 78% of people using veterinary services are 'satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the level of service they receive. 70% of those surveyed also said that they rate the value for money offered by their veterinary practice as 'fair', 'good' or 'excellent.' This I'm sure you will agree is a great result for all vets and we as a practice would hope our clients feel the same. If ever you wish to give feedback, please do so via whichever method of communication you prefer.

Keep in date and up to date!

Please remember to check when your horse's vaccination is due, in the busy show season it can easily be forgotten. Most shows will not let you compete if your horse's vaccinations are not in date. If your horse needs to restart their vaccinations it takes at least 6 months and extra expense. Although our computer system generates reminders, don't rely on them completely!

Computers do go wrong.....

