

In the news: Limbs not feet are main cause of lameness reveals horse survey

Back in the Spring we asked everyone to participate in the National Equine Health Survey, carried out by the Blue Cross. The response this year was excellent, with 15,000 responses. This survey gives an excellent insight in to the general health of the nation's 944,000 horses.



The results from this year's survey shows that limb lameness as opposed to foot lameness is by far the most common syndrome affecting horses. A total of 18% of participating horses were classed as lame. 13% of these were classed as arthritic lamenesses, lower than the previous 2 years. Foot lameness however only accounted for 4.5% of lamenesses.

Interestingly an increase in the prevalence of Cushing's Disease was noted, rising to 6.4% from 5.6% in 2014. Is this because more owners are testing their horses? source www.beva.org.uk

@ The Barn

What a Summer! As usual, both practices have been extremely busy over the Summer period, even though the weather hasn't been up to scratch. With both routine visits and a few less routine calls, all our vets have been kept out of mischief. We welcomed a new vet to the practice in August. Lauren is very keen on the equine side of the practice, read on for more info! Our day on duty at the Tendring Show went without a hitch, it was scorching hot, but luckily we didn't see any animals with sun-stroke. With only one call all day, the vets were left to enjoy the equine classes, spotting a few clients along the way. Well done to all those who took part and went home with rosettes.


Free Cushing's Tests

until
31st October 2015

Once again, Boehringer Ingelheim are offering free ACTH blood tests*.

If you think your horse may have signs of the disease, now is the perfect time to test them.

Symptoms include:

- Lethargy
- Long/Wavy hair coat
- Increased thirst
- Round abdomen
- Odd distribution of fat
- Muscle wastage

*All other fees are charged as normal

**Congratulations!**

At the beginning of August on a sunny day in Felixstowe, Claire McConnell, one of our vets, got married on the seafront to Adam.

Congratulations from everyone at the Barn and we are sure you will join us in wishing them many happy years! So, if you see Claire Canning MRCVS written anywhere, it's still the same Claire!

**The Barn Veterinary Practice
Equine Newsletter**

10%
off!

Web Shop
Now Open

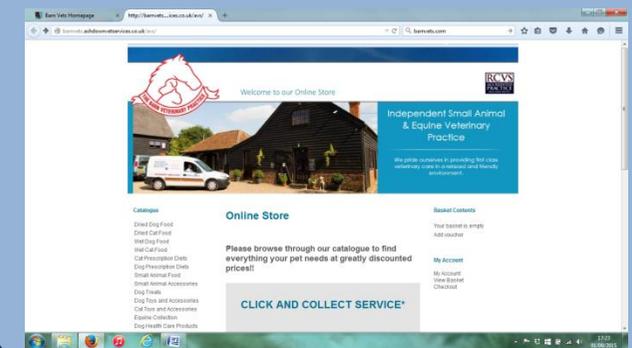


As some of you may already know, we have recently opened an online shop. It went live only a month ago and has already seen some orders being placed. Although the majority of products are aimed at dogs, cats and small furrries, we are certain most of our equine clients will find something to their (or their pet's) liking.

The equine collection includes a huge array of supplements and wound care products.

All orders can be collected from either our Copdock or Ashcroft Road Surgeries, just specify which at the checkout.

Our opening offer has now finished but we have decided to extend it purely for our equine clients. Visit www.barnvets.com and enter **barnequine10** at the checkout to claim your 10% off. Valid until 31st October 2015



barnequine.copdock@zen.co.uk
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Mud Fever - Pastern Dermatitis

We are coming up to the season where many horses suffer from Mud Fever. It is possibly one of the most common skin conditions reported in horses, but how much do we all know about it?

What causes it?

Mud fever is caused by an infectious agent called *Dermatophilus congolensis*. It is always present on the skin and only becomes a problem when the skin's barrier is compromised. It thrives in wet/muddy conditions! When it spreads in to the skin, a local inflammatory reaction takes place.



Predisposing Factors

- Excess sweating
- Heavy feathering of lower limbs
- Cuts/scrapes to skin
- Poor quality skin barrier (dry/cracked)
- White limbs
- Over washing of limbs
- Standing in deep mud/soiled bedding
- Prolonged damp/mild weather

Symptoms

- Matted hair/crusting scabs
- Circular/ulcerated lesions beneath scabs
- Creamy/white/yellow/green discharge
- Hair-loss/swelling/heat/pain
- Lameness
- Can occur elsewhere (back, where it is called rain scald)
- Severe cases cause lethargy/depression/loss of appetite

Treatment

Treatment should be tailored to each individual but usually involves, cleaning, drying, soaking off scabs and applying a topical ointment. Clinical resolution may take a number of weeks. Horses with recurrent mud fever may be left with scarring.

A New Face at The Barn - Lauren Hamstead

Lauren graduated from the Royal Veterinary College this Summer and moved to Suffolk straight away to start work at the Barn.

A born and bred Yorkshire lass, Lauren has been a keen rider from the age of 3. She has always enjoyed looking after her own and her family's horses, especially her first pony Merlin, who was a loveable rogue!

Lauren honed her clinical training to equine practice, spending time studying equine medicine, surgery, diagnostic imaging and stud medicine.

Lauren is very much looking forward to meeting our equine patients and clients as well as small animals at both surgeries.



TAPEWORMS

Don't forget to administer a tapeworm treatment to your horse this Autumn.

Tapeworms have a 6 month lifecycle so it is only necessary to treat for them once or twice a year.

Worming products should be selected responsibly and in conjunction with worm egg counts