

**In the news: Antibiotic Resistance - Do you know what it means for you and your horse?**

Antibiotic resistance is a growing problem for veterinary surgeons, owners and horses alike. Despite this, the World Health Organisation believe that 74% of the world's population do not know what the term 'antibiotic resistance' means. The British Equine Veterinary Association have launched an initiative called 'Protect Me' with some useful advice sheets for owners. Put the link below in your browser to take a look. So, when a vet doesn't dispense antibiotics to your horse, there are likely many reasons behind the decision! Unfortunately antibiotic resistance is a problem that won't go away unless we are proactive in protecting what antibiotics we use. It is likely that within the foreseeable future, the use of antibiotics in veterinary medicine will be significantly restricted.

<http://www.beva.org.uk/filegrab/documents/9d38c58d10752892e453b5f705ac56e8/1antibiotics.pdf>



# The Barn Veterinary Practice Equine Newsletter

## Seasonal Problems Rain Scald



During the winter months, we see more cases of rain scald, likely due to our glorious British weather. But what exactly causes it?

Rain scald is mainly caused by the same bacteria as Mud Fever, *Dermatophilus congolensis*. When the skin becomes wet, cracked or damaged, the bacteria gets past the skin's barrier and causes a sticky secretion to be produced. This is often seen as matted fur along the back of the horse which when bathed away reveals pink sores underneath. Secondary infections then take hold which can result in the need for antibiotics.

Most cases of rain scald can be treated by applying an antiseptic shampoo and allowing the skin to dry out. Sometimes, creams or ointments can be used, but this is usually decided on a case by case basis.

It is important to keep affected horses rugged up when out in wet weather and to always make sure the rugs are watertight. If possible, use a field with a field shelter in. A good grooming routine is also important, as is cleaning your equipment to avoid spreading infection.

## @ The Barn

Last month our trainee nurse Yazmin Harper passed her final exams, meaning she is now a fully qualified Registered Veterinary Nurse (RVN). We now have a team of 8 RVNs which is almost unheard of! The Barn is a training practice for nurses, which means we have to meet targets and have dedicated mentors for each trainee. Over Christmas will be a busy period for us as we will be preparing for our Practice Standards inspection from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. Not all practices are part of the scheme but we feel it is another way of ensuring our clients can rest assured their pets are receiving top class care.



## New Equipment

As part of our ongoing programme of investing in the latest diagnostic equipment for the practice, we have recently taken delivery of 2 urinalysis machines. These machines replace the old method of reading urine tests manually with a fully automated and accurate system. This will be a huge advantage to our vets and will inevitably lead to quicker diagnosis of problems identifiable from a urine sample.



## From All of us at The Barn Veterinary Practice

Make sure you pop in to either surgery and take a look at our Christmas range. You're bound to find something your pet would like to find under the Christmas Tree. Toys, treats, hand-made collars and much more.



## Equine Influenza - Vaccination Amnesty January 2016

As a practice, we at the Barn are keen to highlight the benefits of vaccinating your horse(s) against Equine Influenza (Flu). To get you 'Back on Track®' with flu vaccination we are once again, pleased to offer you a flu vaccine amnesty kindly sponsored by Merial Animal Health who provide our flu vaccines. We chose this vaccine because it contains the latest flu virus strains which offer your horse the most up to date protection. Any horse that is older than 12 months of age that has not been vaccinated against flu or that needs to re-start the vaccination course can now have the second vaccine of the primary course for free.\*

Equine flu is both extremely infectious and contagious and so the best way of stopping both your horse and other horses from becoming infected is to vaccinate. As a disease the signs of flu can vary from a few days of running a high temperature accompanied by the classic snotty nose and harsh dry cough, to serious life-threatening infections especially in young foals.

"Why should I vaccinate?" I hear you cry. Firstly your horse will feel exactly the same as we do when we have the flu – rotten. Also, in becoming infected your horse stands a real chance of infecting many others with the virus. Finally, as you are all probably aware, to compete your horse you will need an up to date passport demonstrating your horse's up to date vaccination status.

The benefits of vaccination were demonstrated very publicly during the 2007 Australian Equine Influenza outbreak. The horse population in Australia had never been exposed to equine flu before and as such, no horses had been vaccinated. Some infected horses entered an Australian quarantine station near Sydney and the virus escaped. The infection spread rapidly and a total of 76,000 horses became infected, located on more than 10,000 premises throughout Queensland and New South Wales. Vaccination, along with the restriction of horse movement, stopped this infection in its tracks and prevented the flu virus from spreading all over Australia. We have chosen to stock the same vaccine as the one predominantly used in the outbreak.

To take advantage of Vaccination Back on Track® please ring the surgery on 01473 730213/743460 to book your visit.

\*Terms and conditions apply

### Terms and Conditions

1. The Vaccination Back on Track® initiative allows (eligible) horses to receive a discounted primary vaccination course.
2. The offer is only open to horses that are over 12 months of age and have not yet been vaccinated against equine influenza or are overdue a booster.
3. In order for horse owners to qualify for the Vaccination Back on Track® initiative, the initial vaccination must be during the month the participating practice has chosen to run the initiative (the practice will run the initiative for January only in 2016)
4. The second vaccination must be completed 4-6 weeks after the first vaccination.
5. Please note the offer does not include the third dose of PROTEQFLU®/PROTEQFLU-Te® vaccine.
6. Any visit fee must be borne by the horse owner. (Unless a zone visit is booked)



### London Vet Show:

Two of our vets (Kathryn and Mark) recently went to the London Vet Show at Olympia, a huge veterinary event in London to showcase new equipment and provide up to date lectures given by world renowned clinicians. One of the many interesting methods of treatment we discovered, was that standing a horse in iced water for 1-2 days, helps tremendously with speeding up recovery from laminitis! We're not sure of the practicalities of it, so doubt any of us will be brave enough to try it, or perhaps it's just a case of getting cold feet.....

