

In the news: Equine Herpes Virus detected at National Stud

In early February, a case of neurological Herpes Virus infection was detected at the National Stud, Newmarket, in a maiden filly imported on 20th January 2016. The filly was fully vaccinated. The stud was temporarily closed but was hoping to re-open for the start of the covering season. The filly in question was isolated a fair distance away from the rest of the stud. Equine Herpes Virus can be spread by direct or indirect contact and can lead to abortion, respiratory disease, death in foals, neurological signs, fever, depression, inappetence, among other symptoms. Vaccinating against EHV can control and prevent some symptoms but cannot prevent infection.



The Barn

After the busy Christmas period, we're settling in to a new year and there doesn't seem to be any let up in the pace of work. We recently saw our busiest zone day to date with 19 horses seen in a single day! We are pleased to welcome a new trainee nurse to the practice, Emily Frost. She will be joining us throughout the year on placement blocks whilst spending the rest of her time studying at the Royal Veterinary College in Potters Bar. She's already been helping out on reception as well as with nursing staff. Our Copdock practice is a designated nurse training practice, meaning we are regularly inspected and the care we provide must be of the highest standard.

The Copdock waiting room currently has a new display showcasing some of the veterinary equipment used in days gone by. Or do we still use them? We'll let you decide. We'll give a prize to anyone who can guess what each item is for, and whether it is still in use!

Our Ashcroft Road surgery has just been given a facelift with a new sign. Many people often comment they never knew the surgery was there, no excuses now!



Be Safe - Be Seen!

There has been a lot of press coverage recently about road safety. Most riders wear some sort of high-visibility clothing and we would urge everyone to do so.

We have a limited supply of high-viz vests if anybody would like one. Please ask a member of staff next time you visit the practice, or request the visit vet brings one with them.

FREE

The Barn Veterinary Practice Equine Newsletter

Seasonal Problem Laminitis

As the lush spring grass starts to grow, we generally see far more cases of laminitis. New growth of grass contains a higher concentration of sugars which can lead to a bout of laminitis. There are many underlying conditions that can predispose a horse or pony to laminitis. If you are worried about this, please have a word with one of our vets.

A recent study by the Animal Health Trust and the Royal Veterinary College has shown that a staggering 50% of owners do not recognise the symptoms of laminitis. Yet, it still continues to be one of the conditions causing most concern for owners and vets alike.

Ways to Prevent Laminitis

- Avoid sudden changes in diet
- Avoid long periods of grazing lush pasture
- Adapt diet to ensure not overfeeding
- Weight control
- Diagnose/treat underlying conditions
- Avoid hard ground
- Monitor for heat in feet
- Monitor comfort levels
- Seek veterinary advice if concerned



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Horse Passports Fact and Fiction

As of the 1st January 2016, new regulations have been implemented regarding the issuing of passports, all old passports will still be valid but there have been changes to the way new ones are filled in.

Fact:

- All horses, ponies, donkeys and related animals (including zoo species like zebras) must have a horse passport
- All horse passports issued since 1 July 2009 must contain a microchip number
- A passport is needed for each animal and lasts for its entire life
- The passport must be kept with the animal at all times
- Contains vital information on whether a vet can administer certain drugs to your horse/pony
- Owners can face an UNLIMITED fine if their horse does not have a passport
- If you lose a passport, you must apply to the original Passport Issuing Authority for a new one
- If a horse has ever had a replacement passport, it cannot enter the human food chain
- Foals must be microchipped and passported by the time they are 6 months old or before 31st December of the year they were born, whichever is sooner.
- When buying a horse, it is the new owner's responsibility to change details of ownership within 30 days of purchase
- When a horse/pony dies, you must send their passport to the issuing authority to have it invalidated within 30 days

New Regulations:

All passports issued from 1st January 2016 MUST include a silhouette drawing as well as the animal having a microchip.

If your horse needs a new passport, please contact the surgery - please note passports cannot be completed on a zone day due to the length of time needed to fill in the form and draw a silhouette



Zone Day Time Slots

Please could we politely remind clients that they **cannot** request times for a visit booked on a zone day. We are getting an increasing number of requests which complicate the vet's route around the zone. The scheme only works by including as many visits as possible on the most economical route. If you are not available all day, booking a visit on a normal day may be more suitable.

Where possible a 30 minute time slot is given which is far more convenient than most practices offer (usually either morning or afternoon) We hope to continue offering this great value service, but can only do so if the days are run efficiently

Thank you for your understanding



Dog Microchipping Law

Don't forget, for any of you who own dogs, they must be microchipped before 6th April 2016, or you may face a fine of up to £500.

We are holding microchipping clinics where any dog can be microchipped for £9.99, less than half the normal price.

Please phone either surgery for details.