

Olympics - Rio 2016

Olympic fever has gripped Great Britain over the summer, watching 10,000 athletes compete in the first ever Olympics to have been held in South America. Great Britain had a total medal haul of 67 medals (27 gold, 23 silver and 17 bronze).

The equestrian team for Great Britain was made up of 12 riders including Charlotte Dujardin, William Fox-Pitt and Carl Hester managed 2 gold and 1 silver medal.

Congratulations Team GB!!

Now we wait to find out the results of our Paralympics team



The Barn Veterinary Practice

Equine Newsletter

EU Referendum Results
23rd June 2016



Once again, another hard to miss news item of the summer has been the decision of the UK to leave the European Union. What has this got to do with veterinary medicine I hear you ask? A lot, unfortunately.

The veterinary sector relies heavily on Europe for both clinicians and medicines. All our medicines carry regulations imposed by the EU, our production of new medicines is also closely regulated by the EU.

Incredibly almost half of veterinary surgeons registering in the UK qualified from veterinary schools elsewhere in the EU. Certainly many of our top referral centres and teaching hospitals are staffed by a majority of foreign vets who bring a wealth of expertise to the UK veterinary field.

From an owners perspective there are likely to be changes to import and export regulations as well as the PET Passport scheme for cats, dogs and ferrets.

As yet, no announcements have been made, only that the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons will be working closely with the government and the British Veterinary Association to minimise the risks and optimise the benefits of Brexit.

We will keep you posted.

@ The Barn

This summer has been one of our busiest on record, the summer holidays are always hectic, this year has been no exception. Due to staff illness we have are happy to welcome back a familiar face. Mel Penn has joined us to help out our nursing team. For those clients who have been with us for many years, you may recognise her from 20 years ago! At the end of September we are very sorry to see the departure of Dawn Deacon. Dawn has worked tirelessly for the past 4 years ensuring all our clients insurance claims go through without a hitch, as well as being a friendly face to welcome everyone to both surgeries. We wish her all the best for the future. Replacing Dawn we have 2 new members of the reception team, Alison and Alyson. Emily Frost our student veterinary nurse has also completed another placement with us and has taken up a permanent position working at our Copdock surgery every Saturday morning.



FREE!

We still have a supply of goody bags at the Copdock surgery including a reflective tabard. Useful now the evenings are drawing in!



Stomach Ulcers - Gastric Ulceration

Stomach ulcers are most common in endurance horses but not exclusively so. Up to 90% of racehorses in training are suspected to have evidence of stomach ulcers. 30% of adults horses (not in race training) are also suspected to have them. So what are they? What causes them? and How do we treat them?

What?

The lining of the stomach (mucosa) is damaged or disrupted in some way, meaning acid from the stomach can infiltrate the wall of the stomach. This effectively burns the stomach wall, breaks it down and forms an ulcer. Ulcers can become so severe and deep that the stomach can rupture.

Why?

- stress, infection, NSAID treatment (bute), diet, delayed stomach emptying, parasites and foreign objects within the stomach

Symptoms

- anorexia, depression, pain/reaction when tacking up, behavioural changes when ridden, teeth grinding, salivation, lying on back and colic

Diagnosis

- The most common and least invasive way to diagnose stomach ulcers is to perform endoscopy. This entails putting a camera in to the stomach of your horse to look for sore or ulcerated tissue on the wall of the stomach. In more severe cases, blood samples, xrays and ultrasound may be required.

Treatment

- Treatment is usually a drug which protects the lining of the stomach and decreases acid production. These drugs usually come in liquid or paste form. Often these drugs are extremely expensive and sometimes cost prohibitive for the uninsured horse. Pain relief may be required in severe cases. Dietary changes are often needed to provide more roughage and less concentrated feed. Horses should never be exercised on an empty stomach as this allows acid contained within the stomach to splash against the walls of the stomach and potentially cause further ulcers.

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!

If you would like your vet to bring along a sample bag, please ask. We aim to test any worm egg count samples within 24hrs

