

In the News: Equine Grass Sickness (EGS) - new research

In recent years it has been thought that Grass Sickness may be caused by botulism toxin found in soil. Scientists now think this may not be actual cause, leaving us no wiser about what may be the cause of EGS. One exciting new discovery may help when we try to diagnose EGS. Up until now, post mortem samples have been the only definitive way to identify the disease. A recent study has shown that samples of certain cells within the tongue may hold the key to diagnosing EGS whilst a horse is still alive! Unfortunately, EGS is usually fatal in its acute (sudden) presentation, although around 55% of EGS chronic cases recover and lead a normal life. It is thought EGS kills around 1-2% of the UK horse population annually. Research in to EGS is ongoing, with the Horse Trust providing funding for another 3 year project at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies.

Source: www.beva.org.uk



The Barn Veterinary Practice Equine Newsletter



Merry Christmas!

Our Christmas opening times are as follows:

- Christmas Eve: 09:00-12:00
- Christmas Day: Closed
- Boxing Day: 10:30-12:00 (emergencies only)
- 27th December: 10:00-12:00
- 28th/29th/30th December: 08:30-18:00
- 31st December: 09:00-12:00
- New Year's Day: Closed
- 2nd January: Closed

24 hr Emergency Service. Telephone 01473 730213

Please be aware that in order to receive any medication dispenses in time for Christmas, please place any repeat prescription requests on or before Thursday 22nd December.

@ The Barn

As Christmas fast approaches, both practices are decked up for the festive season. We've got a great selection of gifts for your pets but they are selling out fast as our stockists are sold out too!

Please be aware that our opening times do vary over Christmas, see opposite. Some consult slots and visit days will become booked up early. Book well in advance to avoid disappointment!

Emily Frost or Student Veterinary Nurse is back with us again on placement. Meanwhile Mel Penn RVN is now working for us one day a week for the foreseeable future.

In November 2 of our vets and 3 nurses attended the London Vet Show at London's Excel Centre.

This conference offers up to date training and lectures in all areas of veterinary practice, along with a chance to see the latest products and gadgets on the market. Look out for some new and exciting items appearing in the waiting room.



Copdock waiting room ->



There's no worming out of it.....!



At a recent conference we were made aware that there is a possibility that **ALL** horse wormers will become prescription medications. This means that they will not be available over the counter and will need to be prescribed by a Veterinary Surgeon. This will hopefully stop people indiscriminately worming without doing worm egg counts, leading to multiple wormer resistance.

So, with this in mind, we are considering starting a wormer plan. This would involve an upfront cost of around £50-£60 which would include 4 worm egg counts at regular intervals throughout the year and a syringe of broad spectrum wormer to be used in autumn. All other wormers could then be purchased from us or if the law changes, a prescription can be written. These would be used only if indicated by the worm egg counts. We have found that the majority of worm egg counts we do are fairly low and require no further action, in essence, most clients save money when they do worm egg counts!

**30 Years
1986-2016
Thank you!**

The Barn Veterinary Practice is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Starting with 1 employee, building up to our current team of 25, we've come a long way. This wouldn't have been possible without our thousands of loyal clients. Thank you, here's to the next 30 years!

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Hot Topic

Pre-Purchase Examinations (PPEs)

Definitely a hot topic! Nothing gets vendors, purchasers and vets more hot under the collar than a PPE. But it need not be that way. Many people have unrealistic expectations of a PPE or vetting as they are commonly known. Let's start with the basics.

- PPE were formalised in 1976 by the British Veterinary Association
- Aim is to carry out a complete and thorough veterinary examination to identify clinical factors that may affect the horses **suitability for its intended use**. This enables the purchaser to make an informed decision about whether to proceed with the purchase.
- PPE's do not provide the purchaser with a warranty, this would be between purchaser and vendor, not the vet.
- Usually comprise of either a 2-stage or 5-stage examination
- A vet must note down any abnormality they find and cannot omit things on the request of the vendor/purchaser
- Purchaser must be present and have a preliminary discussion about the intended use of the horse, followed by a debriefing after the examination to discuss the horse's suitability for the purchaser.
- Blood samples, flexion tests and the last 3-stages of the examination are optional but strongly recommended. If declined by the purchaser, this must be noted on the vetting certificate
- We encourage purchasers to organise insurance before purchasing a horse/pony to identify any exclusions that will be put in place.

Requirements at PPE: Passport present, suitable surface for trotting up/lunging, dark stable for eye exam, well lit area or daylight for visual examination, purchaser and vendor present, competent groom/handler/rider, not shod within the last week.

If you intend to purchase a horse/pony and would like it vetted, please phone the surgery to discuss it. We may ask you for the vendor's details to ensure we have no conflict of interest. If the vendor is a client, we may still be able to carry out a vetting, but all parties must be aware of this conflict.



Security

A number of our clients have recently been victims of crime and had tack stolen. We would like to remind all clients that as the daylight hours are short, lock up all valuable items and be vigilant.

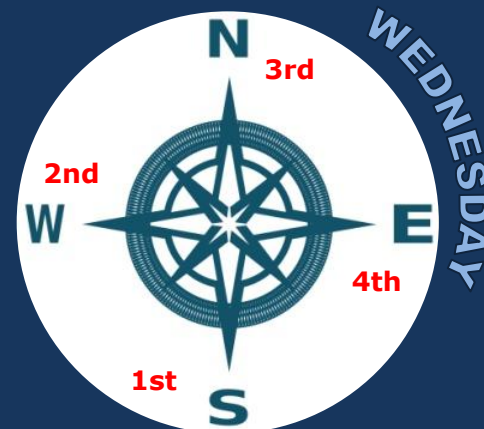
CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS



Zone Visit Time Requests



We are experiencing a growing number of clients requesting times for zone visits or who can only have the vet attend at certain times of the day. Please can we remind anyone requesting a zone visit that times **cannot** be requested as this is the main reason we are able to offer visits with no visit fee. Zone visits rely on the vet planning a route fitting in as many people in the shortest time possible. If you are not available all day for a visit, a zone visit is not suitable for you and we would encourage you to book a normal visit on a day of your choice. Thank you for your understanding.



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