

Equine Biosecurity Survey:

16 of our equine clients have been selected at random to have the chance to participate in a joint research project between the Animal Health Trust, The Royal Veterinary College and The University of Nottingham. Those selected will have already received their invitation, we would encourage you to participate. Please be assured that no personal details have been given out to a third party. Thank you for your cooperation!

**@ The Barn**

At the end of April, we are very sad to be losing Annaliese one of our vets. Many of you will have encountered her out on visits. She leaves us to move to Braintree and join Millenium Vets. Annaliese has taken a very active role in the equine side of the practice and will be greatly missed. On a happier note, we are pleased to welcome another Student Veterinary Nurse, Charley who will be with us for a number of weeks as part of her degree course at the Royal Veterinary College. Over the next few months we aim to roll out our new Barn Health Plan for our small animal clients, so for those of you who have pets on our existing scheme, look out for upcoming changes. The new health plans aim to provide better parasite cover and have a greater degree of flexibility. In April, 3 of our vets are going to the British Small Animal Veterinary Association Congress in Birmingham to attend lectures on new research, procedures and treatments now available.



The Barn Veterinary Practice

Equine Newsletter

In the News: Airbnb for your horse!

Have you heard there is now an Airbnb-style website where horse owners can rent stables for overnight stays? The brain child of Nicole Mills aims to allow horse owners to compete far away from home without the worry of where their horses will bed down for the night.

The booking service covers the whole of the UK, US and Europe and aims to be quick, easy and stress free!

Stables can be rented from as little as £25/night, so if you haven't already, get your holiday booked! Or, if you yourself have a spare stable or two, why not earn some extra money?

Visit: www.stablebookings.com



Recurrent Airway Obstruction (RAO) or Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

RAO is a common disease of horses and ponies, characterised by inflammation of the lower airways and accumulation of mucous.

Symptoms:

- Coughing
- Exercise intolerance
- Wheezing
- Worsens over time
- Weight loss
- 'Heave lines' - increased in abdominal muscles on lower part of abdomen

Cause:

- Exposure to dust/allergen particles over a long period of time
- Stabling for long periods of time
- Using dusty/mouldy hay/straw
- Poor ventilation of stables
- Exposure to animal debris (hair/dander/urine/faeces)
- Exposure to certain bacteria or fungi

Treatment

- Remove source of allergens (use dust free bedding/vacuum packed feed)
- Management changes (keep stabling to a minimum)
- Oral bronchodilator drugs in feed (Ventipulmin®/Dilaterol®)
- Inhaled bronchodilator drugs (used to open up airways)
- Inhaled steroids (used to reduce inflammation in airways)
- Injectable or oral steroids (only in severe cases due to potential side effects)

Metered Dose Inhalers

These can be used in horses to deliver a specific amount of drug directly to the affected part of the body, the lungs. This is targeted drug therapy as only the inflamed tissue in question is receiving the drug. We can use either steroid inhalers alone, or when a severe attack of breathlessness occurs, we can use a bronchodilator inhaler first. The use of a bronchodilator first opens up the airways and allows the steroid to reach the deeper lung tissue, whilst also giving symptomatic relief.



Steroid and bronchodilator inhaler commonly used

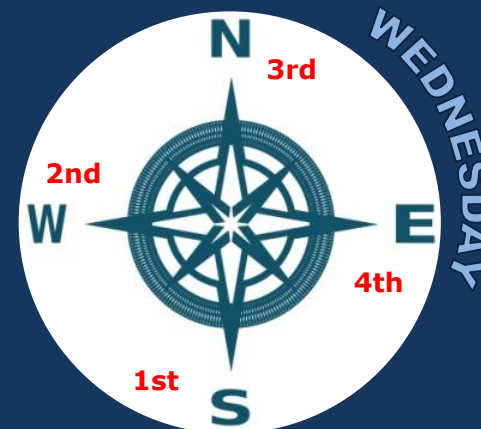
Vet of the Year and Practice of the Year 2017

We are very pleased to announce that Claire McConnell has been nominated for vet of the year in the Pet Plan Veterinary Awards

The practice as a whole has also been nominated in the Practice of the Year category.

The finalists will be announced in early March, with the winners announced at a ceremony in April.

Thank you for our nominations!



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