

In the News: UK to get 9th Veterinary School

Plans have been unveiled to open a new veterinary school as a joint venture between Keele University and Harper Adams Agricultural College in an attempt to reduce shortage of vets in the UK. The school, which would offer the traditional 5 year degree course could be open as early as 2019, offering 100 students a year the chance to study veterinary medicine. At present, 7 applicants are chasing every place at a veterinary school, yet the industry is still crying out for vets. At present, around half of registering vets are from outside the UK.

@ The Barn

As Autumn is fast approaching and the busy Summer show season is coming to an end, it's time to take a breather. Over the Summer we've seen some changes at the Barn with the arrival of two new vets. Lizzie Munroe-Lott MRCVS and Julia Fraser MRCVS have joined the team. Both have a keen interest in equine work and will be out and about on visits.

Our new pet health plan for dogs and cats has now launched with well over 100 members joined already. If you are interested in splitting and reducing the cost of your smaller pet's preventative healthcare, please ask any member of staff.

In November, 2 of our Registered Veterinary Nurses and 2 of our Veterinary Surgeons are once again attending the London Vet Show in its new home at the Excel Centre. The show delivers talks on cutting edge research we hope to apply to every day practice. We are always on the lookout for new equipment to add to our already well stocked laboratories and theatres to ensure your pets are getting the most up to date care possible. This year we are going with quite a shopping list!

The practice has also recently invested in a new computer system at our Ashcroft Road surgery to ensure the smooth and reliable running of our clinical record system. Please bear with us as there have been a few tiny teething problems!



Fireworks

Is your horse scared of fireworks?

This time of year can be a real pain for horse owners with firework season seeming to last from now until the New Year. Do not fear!

There are many ways to help combat this stressful time, both through management changes and herbal-type remedies.

As a practice, we have had a lot of success with anti anxiety sprays such as Pet Remedy which comes both as a spray and a plug-in diffuser. There are many calming supplements on the market, please ask a vet or nurse which ones they would recommend for your horse's particular situation.



The Barn Veterinary Practice Equine Newsletter

PASSPORT PLEA!!

Another plea to any owners who have yet to bring their passports in to have previous vaccinations entered. We have a huge collection of vaccine bottles/stickers waiting to be put in to passports that cannot be kept forever. If you don't bring your incomplete passports in soon, you will risk the vaccinations not being recorded and therefore void for competitions and shows!



PLEASE BRING THEM
IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!!

"Horses are only scared of TWO things..... things that move.... and things that don't....."

Corneal Ulcers

What are they?

Corneal ulcers are any form of damage to the surface the eye. They can either be deep or superficial (shallow) and can be very serious if left untreated. In the worst case scenario, they may lead a horse losing its eye.

How do they occur?

Sometimes they occur for no reason, but more often than not, a horse has scratched their eye on something such as a fence post, shrub, fly mask or similar. This damage may be purely accidentally or may be as the result of a pre-existing irritation such as a fly bite.

How do we diagnose them?

If a vet is suspicious of a corneal ulcer, they will likely first put some local anaesthetic drops in to the eye, followed by a stain called fluorescein. Fluorescein dye attaches itself to any broken parts of the surface layer of the eye, the cornea. If the cornea is damaged, this area glows green under ultraviolet light, sometimes it is visible to the naked eye.

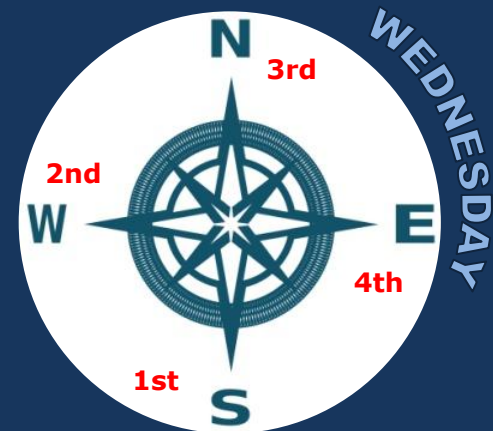
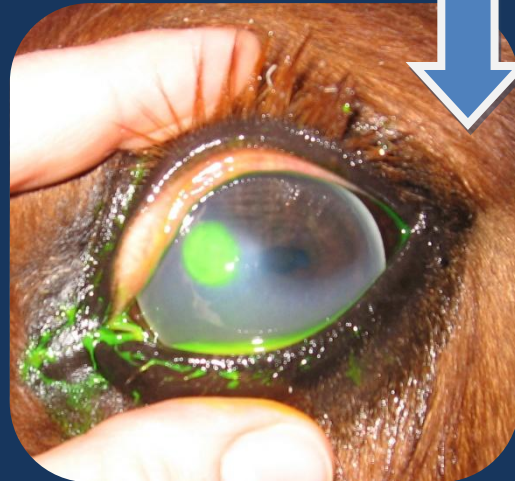
How do we treat ulcers?

A simple ulcer will heal with the help of antibiotic drops coupled with some artificial tears or lubricant. If an ulcer is slow to heal we may use a solution called 'EDTA serum.' This is made using a centrifuged sample of the horse's blood mixed in a special sterile tube. The solution is then used as an additional drop in the eye. If an ulcer becomes a 'non healing ulcer,' it means that as the cornea tries to repair itself, the new tissue doesn't stick down to the underlying tissue, creating a flap. These flaps of cornea must always be removed which the vet will do with a cotton bud. In extreme circumstances a procedure called a grid keratotomy will be performed under local anaesthetic. This involves scratching the surface of the eye with a surgical needle. This creates a framework for new cornea to grow across and anchor down.

Free Cushings Testing - Again



Up until 31st October
(vouchers valid until 30th November)
www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk is
providing free laboratory test vouchers
for Cushings Disease diagnosis. Take
advantage of this if you are suspicious
your horse or pony may have Cushings.
Talk to a vet for further information and
other costs involved



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