

In the News: Row over EU 'animal sentience' law

There has been a lot of social media coverage regarding the government's recent decision to not incorporate an EU treaty, recognising that animals could feel emotion and pain, in to the EU Withdrawal Bill. There was widespread anger online, unfortunately fuelled by many misinformed members of the public. The government has since made a statement that in fact this treaty was rejected as animal sentience is already enshrined in UK law, meaning the amendment is not needed. Moral of the story - don't believe everything you read online! Source: BBC News



**The Barn Veterinary Practice
Equine Newsletter**

Christmas Opening

Saturday 23rd December: 0900-1200
 Sunday 24th December: 1000-1200 (Ashcroft Road only)
 Christmas Day: Closed
 Boxing Day: Closed
 27th/28th/29th December: Early Closing 0830-1800
 30th December: 0900-1200
 New Years Eve: 1000-1200 (Ashcroft Road only)
 New Years Day: Closed

@ The Barn

It's been all go at the Barn in the last few months. We've had road closures around the Copdock practice causing a few problems, but eventually everything went without too many hitches. We've had snow and ice causing problems for many clients as well as their pets! In late December we are due to take delivery of a brand new, hand-made 'Shepherd's Hut,' to extend the Copdock practice and give us much needed extra office space.

The London Vet show proved once again to be another great opportunity for 2 of our vets and nurses to get to know about some new products, equipment and medications. Some of these have already arrived at the practice. Hopefully a number of patients will benefit from these new and innovative medications.



**From all of us at the Barn Veterinary Practice,
we wish you and your pets a happy and
healthy festive season**



Photo Competition

Last week we started a photo competition on our Facebook page. We'd like as many clients as possible to send us pictures of their pets, horses included! We're going to create a display in both surgery waiting rooms for everyone to admire. Check out our Facebook page for current entries and please submit your own!!

**barnequine.copdock@zen.co.uk
01473 730213**

Ringworm

As with all other animals, ringworm is in fact a fungal infection, usually involving the skin. These fungi are called 'dermatophytes' *Microsporum* and *Trichophyton* are the most common species to affect horses.

Symptoms:

- Dry scurfy skin
- Raised red scaly patches with hair loss (often in circles)
- Large flakes of dandruff
- Itchiness



Diagnosis: Culture of fungus in a laboratory or examination under a microscope. Unlike growing bacteria in a laboratory, fungal cultures can take a number of days to weeks. As the lesions of ringworm are often characteristic of the disease. Many horses are started on treatment and have recovered before laboratory results confirm a diagnosis!

Treatment: Topical treatments are most frequently used for equine ringworm. Shampoos and antifungal washes are a very effective treatment. Hair around the lesions should be clipped away to enable topical treatments to be more effective and get rid of any large build ups of fungal spores. Soaking dry scabs off can also help. If you think your horse potentially has ringworm, phone us straight away, the sooner they are treated, the less likely it is to spread.

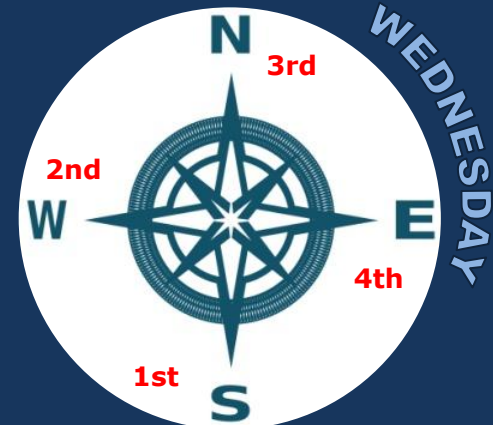
IMPORTANT: To prevent cross contamination of animals, thorough cleaning of tack and equipment **MUST** take place. Ringworm is highly contagious!

BLUE FOR
PETS
CROSS

Fundraising for the Blue Cross

We work closely with the Blue Cross whenever we need find a pet in need of treatment when their owners are going through financial hardship. As part of this partnership we try to raise as much money as possible to support the Blue Cross' good work. This Christmas we installed a 'memory tree' in both waiting rooms. We are happy to say it has been a huge success. The idea is that clients can pay a donation to place a 'bauble' on the tree and can choose to write a message or memory about a pet, both past and present. The trees are now full of lovely messages, the branches sagging under their weight! We are always humbled by the generosity of our clients when it comes to fundraising. In the past few years we have raised money for the RSPCA, Macmillan Cancer Research and the Blue Cross to name a few. Every time our clients surpass themselves and raise greater amounts each time for these worthy causes.

If you have any ideas for fundraising, we would be extremely grateful!



barnequine.copdock@zen.co.uk
01473 730213