



Welcome to the Scott Dunn's Equine Clinic Newsletter

STRANGLES

Strangles is a respiratory infection of horses, donkeys and ponies caused by *Streptococcus equi*. It is a highly contagious disease and the most common bacterial infection of horses.

SYMPTOMS

With onset, the horse appears depressed, dull, and stops eating. Typically, the temperature rises to 41°C. After a few days lymph nodes around the throat swell, forming abscesses. The horse can have difficulty breathing and swallowing (hence the name 'strangles'). A nasal discharge is at first clear and then becomes purulent (thick with signs of pus), after the abscesses have ruptured in the nasal passages. Sometimes the veterinarian surgically opens the abscesses to help breathing. Abscesses that rupture shed highly infective pus into the environment, which can infect other horses. In some outbreaks and in up to ten percent of cases, these abscesses spread to other parts of the body (a condition known as 'bastard' strangles) which is nearly always fatal.

DIAGNOSIS

Fever, depression, loss of appetite, nasal discharge, and swollen lymph nodes make clinical diagnosis generally straightforward. Isolation of *Streptococcus equi* from the nose and throat (including the guttural pouch) with swabs taken from the nasopharynx and from abscesses confirms the clinical diagnosis.

Strangles is always circulating in the horse population and forms a carrier state. All horses coming into a yard should be isolated and their blood tested to ensure they haven't had recent contact with the strangles organisms. If the blood test is positive swabs and washes should be obtained from throat and guttural pouches.

A/I WORK

This year's stud work has already started with the first AI and first embryo transfer completed. Mares not under lights should also start cycling by mid April, and then breeding work can get under full swing. We have already seen several foals born this year, including the first of last year's embryo transfers. We still offer a very competitive set of package prices and look forward to discussing your mares future and your stallion

choice. Please phone James on **07793 653 372** with any questions.

WORMING PROGRAMME

Many of you will already be aware of this new package; however, as a reminder, we are now offering a worming package. In brief all this will cost you is £80 per year; this includes your wormers and a worm egg count. One of our admin team will call you every two months to remind you that your horse needs worming and they will either remind you to collect your wormer, or post to you which ever is more convenient. If you haven't taken up this offer please ask one of the vets or phone and discuss with one of the reception team.



FIXED PRICES ON SERVICES AND REDUCTIONS ON VISITS

Due to fuel prices coming down **we unlike many other businesses** have decided that this cost should be passed onto our clients. Therefore, we have made a reduction in all of our visit charges with effect from the 1st of April. **Visit area A** which is the closest area to the practice has now been reduced more than other areas due to its locality to the practice. It has been **decreased by 50%**, this applies to people living Binfield, Hurst, Ruscombe, Shurlock Row, Warfield, Winnersh and Wokingham.

Furthermore, from the **1st of April** we have also **fixed all of our prices** on Equipalzone (bute), Navilox and Ventipulmin from the 1st of April until December 2009.

EHV promotion

Due to the success last year we are planning to run a further EHV promotion throughout the months of April and May. Any EHV vaccinations carried out during this promotion will be eligible for a 15% discount, so the cost price to you inc VAT would be **£18.30**. **Our recent market research already shows we are the cheapest locally for vaccinations.**

LATE NIGHT EVENING CALLS

Due to client demand and the longer days, we are going to be providing later calls throughout the summer. These will come at NO extra cost to you the client. This demonstrates our commitment to meet our clients' expectations. These will start from the beginning of April to the end of August. It will mean that we run routine appointments until 8pm.

BOOSTER REMINDERS

We are also trialling sending booster reminders, the first of these will be sent in June. You will only be sent these if you have a vaccine due. However, we must stress that the responsibility still lies with you the client. Reminders will not be sent for EHV. Any horses that need to comply with FEI must continue to follow rules set by the FEI and should not rely on the practice.

SPECIAL OFFER PRE-COMPETITION SCREEN

Like our clients, we are appreciative of the economic climate; and for this reason we have negotiated a promotional offer with our labs where we can offer you a reduced blood test for the months of April, May and June, this will only cost you £35. This blood test would enable our vet team to test your horse prior to the start of the competition season. This test will look at the immunity, red blood cell count and muscles enzymes of your horse. This would allow us to advise you how to get maximum performance from your horse through early preventative treatment. A healthy red blood cell count is essential for the oxygen carrying capacity of the blood; white blood cells are an indication of the health of the immune system. Muscle enzymes can indicate how the muscle cells are responding to increasing exercise regimes this can be especially useful for horses that are prone to tying up. Finally the blood test will access major organ function e.g. liver and kidney. Under performance in a horse can be associated with early liver changes which have no overt signs but picked up soon enough have a better chance of resolution. This can also be a useful monitoring tool for horses that have not wintered as well as can be expected and would be a valuable check up coming into the spring and even as a general health check for piece of mind.

CLIENT EVENING TALKS

We have been delighted with the amount of clients, who have attended the following talks,

Thursday 19th Feb – Reproduction. James Crawford at Wellington Riding.

Thursday 5th March – Strangles in the horse. Dr Richard Newton

The following are scheduled:

Thursday 30th April at 7.30pm at Wellington Riding cafeteria.

Thursday 28th May at Wellington Riding, talk on Teeth problems . I McKenzie BVSc, MRCVS

Thursday June 25th at Wellington Riding, talk on Skin problems. R Willis MRCVS

Thursday July 30th at Wellington Riding, talk on wound management. Simon Knapp LVO, BSc MRCVS

Please could all clients phone the office to register for their free place. Furthermore, we are asking that all clients provide us with email addresses so we can email them telling them about upcoming talks. **Thank you for your support and any feedback is welcome, including any talks you would like us to do in the future. We also have the upcoming talks throughout the summer:**

PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING RENEE WILLIS

RENEE grew up on a small beef cattle property in north-west NSW and has always had a keen interest in horses. She has competed in many different equestrian disciplines but became particularly involved with show jumping horses from an early age. Throughout high school, she competed at show jumping shows and competitions most weekends and school holidays. Renee studied veterinary science at The University of Sydney. After graduating, she worked at The Willis Family Practice in Armidale NSW. Here she gained experience in rural mixed practice while focusing mainly on large animals. It was in May 2007 that Renee came to the UK to do some locum work, ride some show jumping horses and to see a bit of the world. After working with Scott Dunns as a locum Renee joined as a permanent employee in the Autumn of 2008.

HORSE AND DOG THEFT

Sadly we have had an increase in the number of reports regarding pets being stolen from our Clients. Please be vigilant at all times with your horses, dogs and other pets. Many Clients still don't have horses and their other pets micro chipped. We are again trying to raise awareness and are therefore offering microchips for **£15.00** instead of our normal price of £31.40.



Maidenhead Road, Billingbear, Wokingham, Berkshire
Tel: 01344 426066

Opening Hours - 8.30 am to 18.00pm Monday to Friday,
Saturday 8.30am to 12 noon

If there are any topics that you would like covered in the subsequent newsletters, please contact the reception staff, so that we can target areas of interest more accurately.

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