

Langford Vets

Stables Equine Practice



Autumn Newsletter

October 2024



Penny's Trip to Egypt with BEVA

One of our vets, Penny, recently volunteered for a trip to Animal Care Egypt, a charity providing free treatment to working donkeys and horses in Luxor, Egypt. The aim of the trip, organised by the BEVA trust, was to help provide teaching to Egyptian vets working at the charity. It was an eye-opening and humbling experience with cases not seen in the UK, including a donkey with rabies. Most of the animals seen are essential for the livelihoods of their owners and the free treatment and hospitalisation provided enables the animals to recover from their illness or injury in a safe environment.



We would love to hear from you

FEEDBACK REQUEST



Langford Vets

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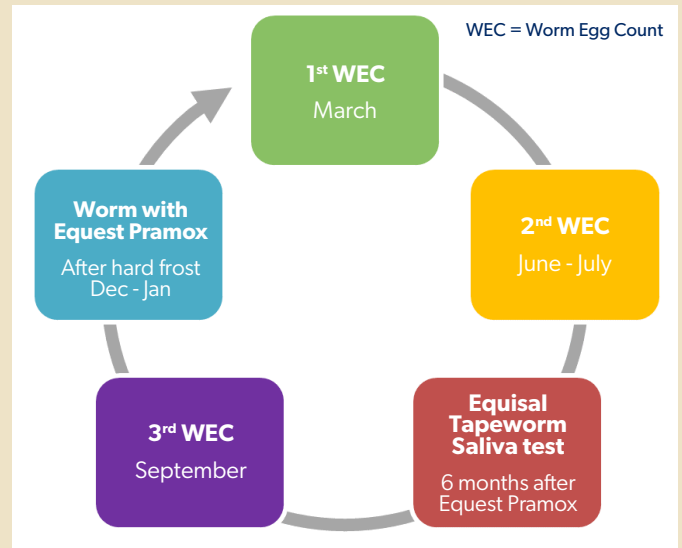
We welcome our clients to take a few minutes to complete our short questionnaire about your experience with us. Your valuable feedback helps us to improve our services for you and your lovely horses.

Please click [here](#) to share your thoughts

WormWise

WormWise is a comprehensive and cost-effective service providing effective worm control. Our veterinary designed, strategic worming programme is built upon the ethos of testing before worming and only treating when necessary.

How does the WormWise programme work?



Why choose to join the WormWise programme?

The WormWise Programme Kit Includes:

- 4 x WECs
- Equisal saliva test
- Equest Pramox (Winter wormer)

Free Vet Advice

If you're concerned about worming or simply have a few questions, then just give us a call.

It's Easy

All you have to do is bring a fresh poo sample, collected that day to the clinic in the container provided and wait for advice based on your horse's results.

Preparing for Autumn

- Stabling
- Nutrition
- Mud fever
- Exercise
- Over-rugging
- High vis
- Poisonous plants



Stabling

If your horse has been out 24/7 this summer but is going to be stabled more often throughout autumn and winter, make sure to spend time gradually transitioning them to coming inside, so they can adjust to the change in their routine. Start with short periods of stabling, then gradually increase this time over a period of weeks.



Nutrition

Whether you own an ex-racehorse, a pony or a cob, fibre should be the cornerstone of your horse's diet. As the weather cools, grass growth will slow down and its quality will diminish, making it important to supplement your horse's diet with fibre to support a healthy digestive system.

Hay is the most common source of fibre to meet your horse's nutritional needs. Unless your horse needs lots of extra calories, feeding a small amount of balancer can supply essential vitamins and minerals without adding extra calories. Whichever fibre or feed choices you make, always introduce dietary changes gradually to minimise the risk of colic.

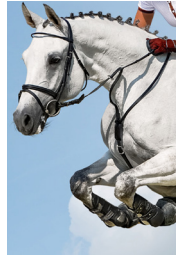
Over-rugging

As temperatures begin to drop, it can be tempting to start rugging your horse more. However, during autumn, mornings and nights may be chilly, but daytime temperatures can rise to the mid-teens. Over-rugging in these conditions could cause your horse to overheat, so monitor the weather closely before deciding.



Exercise

It is important to warm up and cool down your horse properly during the colder months. With your horse spending longer hours in the stable, it may cause them to become stiff, whilst the colder weather can mean their muscles take longer to warm up.



Mud Fever

The recent wet weather puts your horse at risk of developing mud fever. If you can keep your horse's legs as clean and dry as possible, only hosing them around twice per week if possible, as this can help maintain a healthy skin barrier. Look out for signs including scabs around the pastern area, heat or discharge.



High Vis

It is particularly important to wear high-vis whilst hacking out during the autumn and winter months, as the daylight begins to fade earlier. Ensure you and your horse are clearly visible from both the front and back, and always wear protective headgear. It is worth bearing in mind also that your insurance may not be validated if you are in an accident and not wearing high vis.

Poisonous Plants

As grass growth slows, horses may accidentally consume poisonous plants such as acorns, sycamore seeds/seedlings, bracken, ragwort, yew, and ivy. To reduce the risk, it's essential to maintain good pasture by removing or fencing off these harmful plants.



Equine Cushing's Disease

Equine Cushing's Disease, also known as PPID, is one of the most common disease syndromes recognised in horses and ponies in the UK.

This disease is a progressive condition that can negatively impact your horse's quality of life. While early signs, such as subtle coat changes, may seem minor at first, the disease is likely to worsen over time, leading to more serious symptoms that could significantly affect your horse's well-being.



How to spot Equine Cushing's Disease

Equine Cushing's Disease can affect any older horse or pony, regardless of breed or gender, with age being the primary risk factor. While it can't be prevented, owners of horses over 10 years old should stay alert for clinical signs and promptly consult their vet with any concerns. Early diagnosis and treatment can significantly improve symptoms and enhance the horse's quality of life.

Since the disease develops gradually, early signs are often subtle and easily overlooked, as they are mistaken for normal ageing. Common signs include changes in the coat (long, curly hair or delayed shedding), lethargy, muscle wastage, changes in fat distribution (fat pads above the eyes, a cresty neck), patchy sweating, recurrent infections, increased drinking and urination, reduced fertility, and even laminitis.

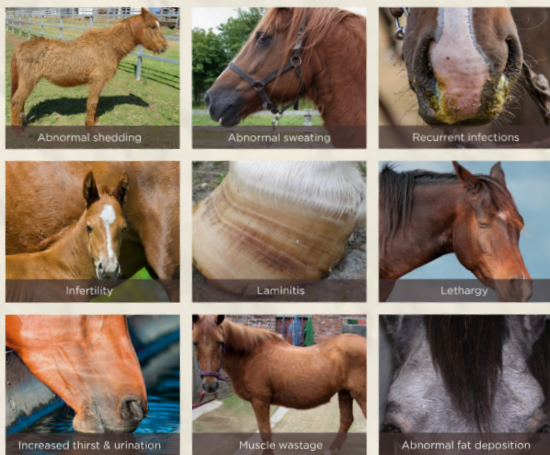


Image from Boehringer Ingelheim Animal Health UK Ltd

For more information visit www.careaboutcushings.co.uk/how-to-spot-it, where you can download a checklist which can help you promptly identify if your horse might have Cushing's.

What to do if you horse has been diagnosed

A diagnosis of Equine Cushing's Disease can feel overwhelming. Although Cushing's is a progressive condition with no cure or prevention, treatment is essential to manage the clinical signs and hormone levels that can significantly affect your horse's quality of life. With proper management, you can enjoy more quality time with your horse.

While Cushing's is a lifelong condition, treatment can be straightforward and effective. Medication prescribed by your vet can help reduce the abnormal hormone production from the pituitary gland, leading to improvements in clinical signs typically seen within 6-12 weeks. Many owners notice their horse's energy and demeanor improve even sooner. Often, owners don't realise how much Cushing's has affected their horse until they begin treatment and witness a positive transformation.

Most horses respond well to treatment and can continue being ridden. However, certain symptoms, such as muscle loss, may take longer to improve, and supporting muscle growth with proper nutrition and exercise is also key. Cushing's is an individual disease and horses will differ regarding their signs, blood ACTH levels and response to treatment. A tailored treatment and management routine can be formed with your veterinary team.

If you are concerned about your horse please contact our team on 01749 830666.

