



SPRING PADDOCKS EQUINE
VETERINARY SURGEONS

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NEWSLETTER • MAY 2020 CLINIC NEWS

These are difficult times for everyone. The lucky ones are able to spend time with their horses, whilst others have limited access or are banned altogether from their yards during this lockdown period, making life very stressful. But the important thing is to keep safe, social distance, and then hopefully it will be all over sooner than predicted.

Here at Spring Paddocks we are still working with a skeleton staff at the clinic with Sarah and Suzie in charge, who together with the vets are making sure that there is always someone at the end of the phone to talk to you and answer your concerns. As time has gone on, the restrictions on what the vets are able to do have been gradually relaxed and we are now able to carry out essential vaccinations where these are in danger of going out of date and attend to anything which might develop into a welfare issue now or in the future.

Strict self-distancing procedures must be observed and rules adhered to:

- Please ensure that there is only ONE person present and that you are not experiencing any symptoms of Covid 19 (fever, cough) and where possible that a 2m distance is upheld.
- Please have soap and a bucket of warm water available as our vets will continue their rigorous hygiene standards to ensure we all remain healthy during this tough period for everyone



Whilst humans are social distancing the dogs do as they please!

Vaccinations and Free Zone Visits

For those of you whose vaccinations have lapsed during the lockdown (between 16/03/2020 and 17/05/2020) and will need to restart a course, we are able to offer a **Covid 19 support package** which gives you the 2nd vaccination of the primary course **free of charge** which if carried out on your **free zone day** should work out very cost effective .

Hopefully we shall be able to offer free zone visit days again soon, once we are able to get out and about more freely. However, it is always worth checking at the clinic if you are concerned and think you may be eligible for a visit because where we have more than 2 yards requiring visits in an area we are able to offer you a visit at a reduced/shared rate.

Competitions are at present on hold but the Eventers are busy preparing for a **Virtual Badminton**, starting on 6th May, as scheduled – go to www.virtualeventing.com - all run in aid of NHS charities

If you telephone the clinic, a vet will always return your call and discuss your problem, arrange a visit if necessary, or give advice and leave medicines out for you to collect to keep your horse comfortable until such time that we are allowed to follow up on these cases.

As soon as restrictions are lifted - we will send out a text message to all those whose horses, according to our records, are due a 6 month booster vaccination, follow up dental treatment or a follow up Blood Sample for ACTH.

As horse riding is discouraged at the moment and all competitions cancelled many horses and ponies have been turned out to grass 24/7 - make sure you keep a close watch out for **laminitis** as the warm, damp weather is perfect for grass growth.

We are going to have to postpone our scheduled '**Weigh in May**' promotion due to the lockdown but will be holding it later in the summer, so if you think your yard would like to take part in this, let the clinic know, we shall put you on the list and contact you as soon as life returns to normality.

Scheduled client evenings and demonstrations have also been postponed until the lockdown is lifted - namely:

June 2020 – Evening talk – 'Is it behavioural or pain'

July 2020 – Junior Equine 1st Aid Evening



LAMINITIS... PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE!

DID YOU KNOW that **90%** of horses & ponies with laminitis have an underlying disease such as "**Equine Cushings Disease**" (PPID) or "**Equine Metabolic Syndrome**" (EMS)

These diseases alter various hormones within the body, leaving the animal at a **hugely increased risk of laminitis**.

Thankfully, both diseases are easy to diagnose with simple blood tests. We encourage **early, proactive testing before the Spring** grass starts to grow, as the new grass can easily trigger laminitis in these affected horses and ponies.



Candidates to test for PPID

- 🐎 Horses/ponies 15 years and over (with or without clinical signs)
- 🐎 Those with a history of laminitis/foot abscesses/dental disease
- 🐎 Equines showing other symptoms of PPID eg long haircoat

Candidates to test for EMS

- 🐎 Those with a large/firm crest (even if they are thin elsewhere)
- 🐎 Horses and ponies with a history of laminitis (even if it was mild)
- 🐎 Any age, especially those who seem to live off thin air!

Most of you are aware of the 'Care about Cushings' website.

Initially, the attending vet will be able to apply for a voucher for you to cover the cost of this first blood test. Thereafter, if you register via the website, you will receive one free monitoring test per horse, per year if your horse is on medication.

Any queries please phone the clinic and we will be able to point you in the right direction

THINKING OF WORMING?

Over the last few weeks clients have been dropping off worm egg counts at the clinic.

These are done in house and a result will be phoned through to you by one of the vets before the end of the day, with current worming advice.

With the very warm, wet weather and milder winter we have been seeing some very high counts. We would therefore recommend testing your horses every 3 months to ensure that the worm burden remains low and we only worm those who need it most.

Resistance to wormers is becoming quite prevalent.

A fresh walnut sized sample, in a labelled container/plastic bag, is all that is required, preferably dropped off at the clinic in the morning.

