



SPRING PADDOCKS EQUINE  
VETERINARY SURGEONS

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## NEWSLETTER • JUNE/JULY 2020

These have been difficult times for everyone. We are pleased that most people are now able to spend time with their horses again and get back in the saddle. It is important to continue to stay safe and keep to social distancing to try to prevent another wave of disease.

Here at Spring Paddocks, most of the staff are now back at work, and together we are making sure that there is always someone at the end of the phone to talk to you and answer your concerns. The restrictions on the work our vets are able to carry out have further relaxed and we are now able to offer our full range of services. Strict social-distancing procedures must still be observed in order to protect you and our vets and to allow us to continue to treat your horses:

- 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



### Worming Programme

With the very warm, wet weather and milder winter we have been seeing some very high worm egg 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 current wormers is becoming very prevalent.**

Regular testing alongside poo-picking is the best way to keep worm burden to a minimum.

We are offering a discounted in-house worming programme:

**The basic programme** includes 4 worm egg counts, a winter wormer and a weigh tape (if required) for £70 Inc. VAT

To this can be added a **Tapeworm Saliva test (recommended)** and a newly developed **blood test for Encysted Redworms** in December (once we have had the first frosts of the winter).

### **Weigh in May**

This had to be cancelled due to Covid 19, but will hopefully now take place **after the 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 for 1 month** – please check the website for confirmation and book your place by phoning the clinic

### **Zone Visits are now back up and running!**

Visits are **FREE** on your zone day, if booked at least 24hrs before required and your horse is stabled within 15 miles of the clinic and at a reduced rate for those who keep their horses further afield.

Contact the clinic to find out which day the vets are in your area



As governing bodies start to announce dates to recommence equestrian sport, it is important to remember to gradually build your horse's fitness before such events. Many of our horses will have had a prolonged period of reduced work during the lockdown, so it is important to remember that they will have lost fitness and will be at a greater risk of azoturia (tying up), heat stroke, tendon and ligament injuries.

At Spring Paddocks, we are offering a **Pre-Season Performance Check** which includes a Basic Health Check, a Trot up and Blood Sample (fitness profile) *for £80 including VAT*. If you would find this a useful addition to your back-to-work programme, please contact the clinic for more details.

*This could be carried out on your free zone day.*

### Scheduled client evenings and demonstrations

*We have had to cancel these for the moment due to social distancing restrictions but hope to **re-organise in the autumn** – check the website and let us know if you are interested in attending*



## Vaccinations

Now that competitions are starting to get back up and running and horses are once again being moved around the country, it is important to **check that your horse's vaccinations are up to date.**

In order for your horse's **flu vaccines** to comply with the regulations they need to have received a **Primary Course** -

**Two vaccinations, 21-92 days apart, followed by a third vaccination 150-215 days later.**

**After this, horses must receive an annual booster vaccine within 365 days of the last vaccine.**

Added to this, most competition venues and organisations have required horses to have been given a flu vaccine within 6 months of the event/competition, meaning that 6 monthly boosters are advisable for horses who compete regularly.

However, some competition organisations have relaxed their vaccination rules slightly *for this year* - if you think this may apply to you, then please **contact your competition authority** to check.

As always, we will endeavour to contact you with a reminder when your horse's vaccination is due, but please bear in mind that if your horse was previously vaccinated by someone other than one of the Spring Paddocks team, we will not have a record, so cannot provide a reminder.

All horses must be vaccinated against **tetanus**. This is a fatal disease, usually picked up via a contaminated wound – the Midlands region has historically had a high incidence of tetanus. Tetanus vaccinations should be given every two years and are usually combined with your flu vaccine when required.

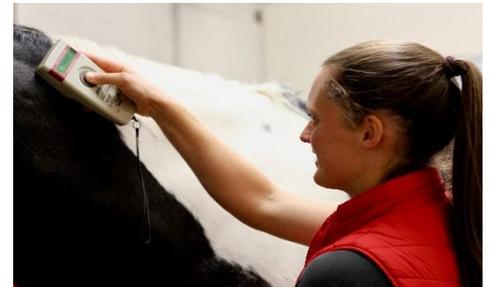
For those of you whose vaccinations have lapsed during the lockdown (between 16/03/2020 and 17/05/2020) and will need to restart a course, we are able to offer a **Covid 19 Support Package**, which gives you the 2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination of the primary course **free of charge**, which, if carried out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

## MICROCHIPPING

On 1<sup>st</sup> October 2020 legislation will come into force that requires **ALL EQUINES** (including donkeys) to have a registered and working microchip, regardless of age, type and their use.

Failing to do so could leave you facing sanctions from your local authority including a compliance notice and a fine of up to £200.

Foals must be microchipped by the age of 6 months, or before the 31<sup>st</sup> December of the year they were born.



Microchipping your horse will mean that your horse's details can be checked on a national database. You will also be able to check the details of a horse you plan to buy or report your horse missing should it ever be lost or stolen.

If you are unsure whether your horse has a microchip or would like to know if it is working, all our vets carry scanners in their cars and will be happy to check your horse free of charge the next time they visit.