



SPRING PADDOCKS EQUINE  
VETERINARY SURGEONS

E: [clinic@springpaddocksequine.co.uk](mailto:clinic@springpaddocksequine.co.uk)

W: [www.springpaddocksequine.co.uk](http://www.springpaddocksequine.co.uk)

T: 01926 612937

F: 01926 612545

# NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2021

## CLINIC & STAFF NEWS



By now, most of you will have met **Danni** and **Mark** who joined the practice in April and early May 2021. They have settled into the routine at Spring Paddocks well and are finding their way around the Warwickshire countryside. Together with **John Brook** and **Carys** they are now very much part of the Spring Paddocks Veterinary Team



**Carys** has a busy season ahead, with her vaulting! The season started locally with her 1<sup>st</sup> International since the start of COVID and she **won** the



2\* class, with her horse, Harry, winning 'Best Horse' at the competition.

She will be setting off with Harry for Le Mans, in France, at the end of July to continue the competition season - we wish her the very best of luck!



### COVID UPDATE

Following the relaxation of government guidelines regarding COVID-19, we as a practice have decided to continue to keep our waiting room and clinic closed to visitors for the time being to enable us to keep the Spring Paddocks Team and our clients as safe as possible.

In order to give your horses the best level of care, it is vital that we protect our small team wherever we can, and ask that precautions are still taken when the vets visit, as several practices have had to temporarily close due to covid related problems.

### A NEW JOINT TREATMENT

Medication of joints remains the mainstay of treatment for arthritis in horses.

Previously treatment options included steroids, Metacam or joint lubricants which aim to reduce inflammation in the joint and provide additional cushioning.

**ARTICELL** is a new product offered at the clinic. It contains stem cells that can repair and replace damaged cartilage in the joint. This can reduce the time between repeat medication and slow the progression of the disease.

If you wish to know more, contact the clinic or visit the Boehringer Ingelheim website.

## Keep an eye out for poisonous plants

It is perfect growing weather at the moment so it is not only the grass we have to consider when managing our horses' pastures. We must also keep an eye open for poisonous plants which can be harmful if consumed, these include:

- Ragwort
- Foxgloves
- Buttercups
- Yew
- Oak
- Rhododendron
- Sycamore

Although horses will not choose to eat these plants when they have plenty of other food available, they can be a concern. So if you see them on your pasture it is worth pulling them up to reduce your horses' risk of consumption. Be aware that just chopping them down is not sufficient as they are often more palatable/attractive to horses when they have been cut and wilted.

## Discounted Worm Egg Counts

Our Discounted Worm Egg Count month returns for the month of August.

Worming is an important part of our horses' management routine but it is also important to ensure they are not being '*over wormed*'.

Worm resistance to the current wormers is becoming an increasing problem and it is therefore essential that they are not used unnecessarily.

### Free Zone Visits:

To make Free Zone Days feasible, we do require payment at the time of the visit. Contact the office to find out on which day one of our vets will be in your area (zone day) to take advantage of this cost-effective offer.

## Laminitis

Laminitis has been a big concern for many recently.

The disease is caused by inflammation of the laminae which can lead to rotation of the pedal bone. This causes pain which often manifests as lameness or a reluctance to move.

Any horse can suffer from this condition but risk factors for the disease include being overweight or an underlying medical condition such as PPID (Cushings) or EMS (Equine Metabolic Syndrome). To reduce the risk of laminitis, you can restrict access to grass by strip grazing or use a grazing muzzle, soak hay overnight to reduce the sugar content and also reduce the amount of concentrate and treats.

**Treatment** involves pain relief with analgesic drugs together with corrective remedial farriery. Good management is also crucial especially in the acute phase when a deep shavings bed is essential and feeding hay that has been soaked for 8-12 hours is recommended.

If you are concerned about your horse/pony and think you may have a laminitis problem, please contact the clinic asap to discuss your concerns with one of the vets.

## Gastroscopy Clinic 20<sup>th</sup> September 2021

In September we are once again able to offer our popular discounted Gastroscopy Clinic

**£150 per horse (£100 discount)**

Gastroscopy allows your horse to be checked for the presence of gastric ulcers which can be responsible for poor performance and behavioural changes. It has proved to be a very useful diagnostic tool.

If you think that your horse may be suffering from gastric ulcers, our vets would be happy to speak to you and if required get your horse booked in for the clinic.