



SPRING PADDOCKS EQUINE
VETERINARY SURGEONS

E: clinic@springpaddocksequine.co.uk

W: www.springpaddocksequine.co.uk

T: 01926 612937

F: 01926 612545

NEWSLETTER • SUMMER 2017

STAFF NEWS

We are delighted to welcome Olivia Bonner-Evans BVetMedSci (Hons) BVM BVS (Hons) MRCVS to our Veterinary team.

Olivia joined Spring Paddocks in July, having completed an internship at TroyTown GreyAbbey Equine Hospital in Ireland where she gained a breadth of experience in anaesthesia, intensive care, internal medicine (especially of foals and youngstock) and post-operative management of surgical cases.

Olivia has developed a particular interest in evaluating horses presenting with poor performance, especially those with lameness issues, and is already a great asset to the Practice. She is enjoying being back in Warwickshire, having grown up and ridden in the area, being a member of the Warwickshire Hunt Pony Club. She can regularly be seen out competing her horse ColdPlay as well as keeping fit- earlier this year Olivia completed the 62km

Ultra-Connemarathon in Ireland in aid of Cancer Research UK!!



FREE CALLOUT

Is your Yard within 5 miles of the Spring Paddocks Equine Clinic?

*If so, enjoy a **FREE** call out on your Zone Day!*

If a visit on your Zone Day isn't convenient, or you would like to see a particular Vet at a prearranged time, then your full price call out is now only **£15.00 (inc. VAT)**

(Out of hours visit fees will still apply)

Free visits must be booked before 4pm the preceding working day and all work done must be paid for at the time unless otherwise agreed.

Please see our website for more details

www.springpaddocksequine.co.uk

EQUINE CUSHINGS DISEASE

A few years ago PPID (also known as Equine Cushing's Disease) was considered a rare hormonal disease in horses. Now it is thought to affect over 20% of horses over the age of 15 and is a condition recognised almost daily in equine veterinary practice.

Signs can be very subtle and variable in the early stages and include;

- Changes in hair / coat
- Infections e.g. foot abscesses / dental infections / high worm count
- Muscle loss / changes in body shape
- Bulging fat pads above eyes
- Mild lethargy / being "off colour"
- Laminitis
- Increased drinking / urination

Quite commonly, only one of the above signs is seen early in the disease so it is vital to test promptly.

It is recommended that horses 15 years and over are blood sampled once a year to screen for PPID, regardless of the presence of clinical signs. The good news is that until 31st October 2017, the LABORATORY FEES ARE FREE for horses who haven't yet been tested POSITIVE.

In addition, any horse or pony who is currently on Prascend® is now eligible for FREE LABORATORY FEES for ONE RETEST between now and 31st October 2017 to ensure their ACTH levels are adequately controlled.



DON'T FORGET TO 'LIKE' OUR FACEBOOK PAGE AND FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM



GASTRIC ULCER AWARENESS

We have been running our very popular Gastroscopy service for several years now, with over 100 horses being scoped by the Spring Paddocks Equine Vets in 2016 and 2017. As a profession, we are now very aware of the variety and subtlety of presenting signs, with many horses being referred to us for vague loss of performance or change in temperament e.g. increased "spookiness" under saddle or irritability during grooming / tacking up.

The Gastroscopy procedure tends to take between 20 & 40 minutes and is very well tolerated by most horses;

- 1) The horse is sedated to ensure they are calm and stand still
- 2) Once sedated, the 3-metre long scope is passed up one nostril until it reaches the pharynx (the back of the throat), the horse then swallows to allow the gastroscope to pass down the oesophagus (food pipe)
- 3) The scope is then gently advanced into the stomach which is inflated with air to allow evaluation of the whole area. Sometimes there is a large volume of stomach acid which needs to be removed by a special pump to enable full visualisation of the stomach. The scope allows photographs to be taken of any abnormalities which can be printed for your records.
- 4) Once all areas have been fully assessed, the stomach is deflated and the scope is slowly removed
- 5) As soon as the horse is awake from the sedation, we give them a soft feed of bran before they go back to their normal routine.

Ulcers in different areas of the stomach respond to different drugs, so it is vital to assess all areas of the stomach before the exact regime of treatment is decided upon. Ulcers are treatable with a combination of correct medication and management; both of which differ slightly between individuals and the improvement is often dramatic within a few weeks.

For anyone interested in finding out more about gastric ulcers, the following dates may be of interest to you;

12th September 7.30pm - **Client Evening: Equine Gastric Ulcers @ Spring Paddocks Equine Clinic**

26th September (all day) - **Discounted Gastroscopy Day @ Spring Paddocks Equine Clinic**

- Gastroscope inc. all required sedation only £100 (normally £200)



Various gastric ulcers diagnosed by Spring Paddocks Equine

AUGUST OFFER - WORM EGG COUNTS ONLY £5!

Help to reduce resistance to wormers!

- Overuse of wormers has led to worms becoming increasingly resistant to the drugs used, and can allow certain parasites to thrive, leading to higher risks of worm related diseases
- Routine worming gives no guarantee that the wormer has been effective
- Using wormers when the level of worm burden is unknown can lead to colic, as very high levels of parasites dying all at once can lead to intestinal inflammation and impactions

We recommend regular Faecal Worm Egg Counts (particularly over the grazing season) to determine if a wormer is required, and if so which drug is most appropriate for each individual horse.

Worm Egg Counts are carried out in our in-house laboratory at Spring Paddocks and the results are usually available within one working day, along with personalised worming advice.

FOR AUGUST ONLY- WORM EGG COUNTS £5 PER SAMPLE (inc. VAT)

N.B. To qualify for this offer, payment for each WEC must be made at the time