



**SEADOWN**  
VETERINARY SERVICES

# EQUINE NEWSLETTER

Delivering first-class veterinary care to the New Forest since 1923

SPRING 2021



**WELCOME** to the Spring edition of our newsletter. This is the first newsletter of 2021 and would like to wish all our clients and equines a healthy and happy year.

We thought we would just take this opportunity to explain the **new Routine Visit Scheme**. The idea of the scheme is to give clients more flexibility during these unprecedented times.

The new scheme applies to all visits that would have been a zonal visit ie vaccinations, dentals, microchipping etc.

- You can specify the day (Mon- Fri) and if you want morning or afternoon. But the exact time and with which vet will be allocated based on diary availability.
- We ask you ring the day before the visit, so we can give you a time and who will be attending.
- We ask that payment is received by 5pm on the day of the visit unless agreed by the vet and made within 24 hours of the appointment, otherwise full visit fees will apply.
- For a single procedure there will be a visit charge of £30 plus costs of the procedure.
- For two or more procedures there will be a visit charge of £20 plus any procedures.

## STAFF NEWS



We are delighted to welcome to the team Ludo Bellazzi. Ludo graduated from the University of Palma in Italy in 2015. She went on to work as an equine vet in an ambulatory practice in Italy, then worked in Ireland for the breeding season. She has just completed a two year internship at a busy equine hospital in the South of England. She loves travelling, walking and is very much looking forward to exploring the beautiful New Forest!

We welcome Breda back to the Equine Vet team. We're chuffed to have her back as she was sorely missed!

We say a temporary farewell to both our Hannah's next month as they go on maternity leave. They will be massively missed but we can't wait to meet their new additions!!

## COVID-19 UPDATE

We are obviously still committed to caring for your horses in these unprecedented times. Our team will be working extremely hard to keep everyone safe on visits and at the clinic. You can help us do this by;

- **Wearing a mask when the vet visits you or at the clinic.**
- **Staying at least 2 metres from the vet – if at all possible.**
- **Having only one handler per horse present.**
- **Letting us know straight away if you or anyone you live with have symptoms of Covid-19 or have been asked to self-isolate.**

## Spring is coming .....

The birds are singing and it's starting to warm up.....before we know it Spring will arrive! As we sometimes see a wave of laminitis at this time of year it is worth looking at ways of reducing the risk of a laminitis bout.

The two most common causes of laminitis is Cushing's (PPID) and Equine Metabolic Syndrome. These conditions are easily diagnosed with a simple blood test. If one of these conditions is diagnosed, getting the treated and under control will hugely reduce your horse developing laminitis for the first time.

We would be happy to discuss this further if you contact the practice on 023 80845586 or email us at [equine@seadownvets.co.uk](mailto:equine@seadownvets.co.uk)



## ATYPICAL MYOPATHY

Atypical Myopathy (AM) is a serious condition caused by horses eating sycamore seeds and leaves in autumn and winter, and their germinating seedlings in spring. Survival rates are only roughly 40% of cases and hugely depend on speedy diagnosis and treatment.

### Signs of Atypical Myopathy include;

- Muscle stiffness/weakness, lying down/struggling to walk and even breathe
- Horses can be very dull
- Lethargy
- Muscle trembling
- Colic signs
- Heart or breathing problems



### Treatment for Atypical Myopathy;

This is all about instigating treatment while awaiting test results. Treatment generally involves intravenous fluid therapy and anti-inflammatories, the horse will require intensive nursing in a hospital or clinic setting.



### How can I prevent my horse from developing Atypical Myopathy?

- It is impossible to know how susceptible individual horses are to AM, hence it is wise to treat all horses the same.
- Fields should be regularly checked for sycamore seeds or seedlings. Sycamore seeds can be blown up to 200 meters.
- Avoid grazing horses in fields with overhanging sycamore trees or fence off areas where seeds fall.
- In the spring, Sycamore seedlings should be mowed, the cuttings collected and removed as the toxins can remain in the plant material after being cut.
- Reduce stocking density and offer supplemental feeding ie. hay in autumn/winter to avoid overgrazing.
- You can now do a sycamore sample test to identify plants containing HGA toxin.

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## ALLERGIES- WE CAN NOW OFFER NEW AND EXCITING TREATMENTS

Does your horse suffer from recurrent cough? Have you noticed that your horse is rubbing its mane or is losing hair seasonally? Maybe you have felt small bumps on the skin when you have been brushing your horse before a ride? Just like dogs and cats, horses also be allergic. Allergies in horses are often elicited by insects, grass or tree pollens. Sometimes it is mould or mites, which contaminate damp hay or straw and is responsible for allergic responses in your horse.

Nowadays atopic disease is one of the most prevalent skin disorders in horses. It is defined as a genetically predisposed inflammatory and pruritic (itchy) allergic skin disease. Its characteristic clinical presentation is itching, recurrent hives or small flat-topped bumps (wheals), patchy hair loss due to constant rubbing, and is associated with IgE antibodies most commonly directed against environmental allergens. Diagnosis of atopic dermatitis is based on the exclusion of all other disorders of the skin during dermatological investigation. Deposition of the carefully chosen allergens intradermally (Intradermal Testing) is the gold standard method for identification of allergens suitable for avoidance and eventually for planning the Allergen-Specific Immunotherapy (desensitization) in atopic patients.

We are pleased to offer this allergy testing in horses at Seadown, please contact us on 023 80845586 or [equine@seadownvets.co.uk](mailto:equine@seadownvets.co.uk)

After injecting allergens



Allergens that the horse is reactive to - are still raised



Find us on 

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and find the information helpful, however it should not be used as an alternative to professional veterinary care. If you have any concerns regarding your horses' health please contact your surgery.