

EQUUS VETS NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

FOR BREEDING, FOR SPORT FOR LIFE



It certainly feels like we have not had a dry day for a long time!! With it being so wet, this can in turn bring some winter worries of how to manage conditions this can lead to for our four legged favourites.

Aeisha talks about one of these dreaded problems – MUD FEVER

WHAT IS MUD FEVER?

Mud fever is a bacterial infection of the skin usually seen around the pasterns and heels. The most common signs are raw or oozing patches of skin, which can be painful and lead to cellulitis in more severe cases. Mud fever is typically associated with persistent wetting of the skin but can occur secondary to mites or other skin issues.

HOW IS MUD FEVER TREATED?

Mud fever lesions normally need to be clipped and cleaned with an antiseptic solution such as hibiscrub (chlorhexidine) to remove areas of scabbing and crusting. Antibacterial cream such as flamazine can then be applied to treat the skin infection. If the infection is severe and causing cellulitis, oral antibiotics and anti-inflammatories may also be required.

HOW CAN MUD FEVER BE PREVENTED?

Unfortunately, preventing persistent wetting of the skin is the best way to prevent mud fever, which is much easier said than done at this time of year! That said, even short periods of time out of mud to allow the legs to dry can be very beneficial. If you are washing your horse's legs, it is important to dry them thoroughly afterwards. Alternatively, allowing the mud to dry then brushing it off can be more effective for many horses. Use of barrier creams prior to exposure to the wet and mud (such as before turnout) can help prevent mud fever in many cases.

FEATHERS OR NO FEATHERS?

There is no right answer here! The most important thing is to find a regime that works well for you and your horse. For some horses, the feathers externally can be very wet but keep the skin underneath dry; in these cases, they can help protect the skin from infection. In other cases, the feathers hold water and do not let the skin dry out properly. This can particularly be a problem with heavily feathered horses whose legs are washed. Assessing your horse's legs regularly can help determine whether the feathers should be clipped or not.

Earlier this month, our team were full of the Christmas cheer and were seen out and about on their rounds sporting their finest Christmas jumpers.

Everyone then gave a donation which went to the Save The Children Fund Christmas appeal.



EQUUS VETS

COVERING DEVON AND EAST CORNWALL

HEAD OFFICE: 64 FORE STREET, NORTH TAWTON, DEVON, EX202DT DISPENSE

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CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Monday 25th December – **Surgeries Closed** – Out of Hours 24hr Cover
Tuesday 26th December – **Surgeries Closed** – Out of Hours 24hr Cover
Wednesday 27th December – **Surgery Open** – 08.30 – 17.30 (then usual OOH)
Thursday 28th December – **Surgery Open** – 08.30 – 17.30 (then usual OOH)
Friday 29th December – **Surgery Open** – 08.30 – 17.30 (then usual OOH)
Saturday 30th December – Usual 24hr Out of Hours Cover
Sunday 31st December – Usual 24hr Out of Hours Cover
Monday 1st January – **Surgeries Closed** – Out of Hours 24hr Cover
Tuesday 2nd January onwards – Back to usual working hours!

TEAM UPDATE

In January we have an additional vet Sam joining our ambulatory team.

Sam will be with Equus on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday and will be with North Park tending to the needs of the small animals on a Tuesday and a Thursday.

More information about Sam in our January Newsletter!

DISPENSES OVER THE CHRISTMAS PERIOD

If you think you might need a dispense over the coming week or two, please let us know as early as possible so that we can ensure that we can have it ready for you



We would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas from all the team and a Happy and Peaceful New Year



CORNWALL AREA DAYS FOR JANUARY 2024



w/c 1st January 2024
w/c 15th January 2024
w/c 29th January 2024

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