

## A Date For Your Diary:

Thursday 27th April the Summerleaze Equine Team will be hosting an evening focused on equine behaviour. This is a free event which we hope you will find fun and informative.

Starting at 7:30PM, the evening won't just be our team talking...and talking...about behaviour (!), we will also demonstrate techniques to help modify some behaviours, with a practical hands-on session as well.

To reserve a place/s, please just contact our office on **01297 304007** or email [summerleaze@summerleaze-vets.co.uk](mailto:summerleaze@summerleaze-vets.co.uk)

The event will be held at :

**World Horse Welfare  
Brinichill  
Somerton, TA11 7LA**



April 2023

Newsletter



**A Spring Focus On Worming:** Worms in excessive numbers cause many gastrointestinal problems in horses, ponies and donkeys. A combination of pasture management, worm egg counts (WEC) and targeted worming, will ensure that these worm burdens are kept to a healthy level and minimise the risk the disease, our veterinary led worming package can help with this.

For **£70** per horse, per year, we offer **4 Worm Egg Counts (WEC)**, a **winter worming treatment** for encysted small redworms larvae and tapeworm, an **EquiSal saliva test** for tapeworm, unlimited **use of our weigh scales** to ensure correct dosing and a **bespoke worm analysis** from an experienced Equine Vet Team. To sign up, or for more information, please contact the office via telephone or email.



### Summerleaze Equine Vets Easter Opening

During the Easter break we have dedicated Equine Vets on call for **emergencies**. If you are worried enough to think you may need a vet, then please call, we would rather speak to you, or see your equine friend if you are concerned.

Friday 7th April  
Saturday 8th April **Emergency**  
Sunday 9th April **Treatment Only**  
Monday 10th April

For emergency treatment, please ring

**01297 304007**

Should you need any prescriptions/medicines to get you through the Easter break, please ensure these are requested by Tuesday 4th April at the latest and collected before the Easter break closure.

### Keep up-to-date with our social media!

Facebook, Instagram and our website all have information about our upcoming event (future events will also be shared here), services that we offer and any changes to opening times, in relation to public holidays.

### Don't forget to keep us up-to-date

**as well!** As and when you go away, on holiday or for business, and you have trusted the care of your equine friends to someone else, then please let us know.

We need to know the duration for which this person is caring for your equine and, what they can and can't do in your absence. Should we need to contact you, please do inform us of the best method to get in touch.

This will help us to provide you and your equines with the best service and care we can.

[summerleaze@summerleaze-vets.co.uk](mailto:summerleaze@summerleaze-vets.co.uk) 01297 304 007

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**Taking care of the mares:** Mares can get mastitis, the udder becomes, swollen and painful with a white to yellowish discharge. This can be incredibly uncomfortable and can occur during, or after, pregnancy, in some cases, resulting in the formation of scar tissue. This scar tissue can compromise how effective the udder will be for producing milk. So early treatment is again important.

Spontaneous mastitis can also happen in mares not in foal, especially in the summer.

Pregnant mares are also at risk of laminitis so it is important to check their digital pulses regularly.

Mares can also get colic, due to the decreased space in their abdomen and foal movement. So it is also important to keep a close eye on your mare from this aspect.

Abortions are also common, so it is important to ring if your mare is acting strangely or, if there is any vaginal discharge. Early bagging up can also be a sign of placentitis which can result in an abortion or a very sick foal.

It is important to ensure your mare is fully vaccinated for tetanus. Not only will it protect her during foaling, but will also protect the new born foal via the colostrum.

**If you are concerned, it is important to call your vet.**

## Foaling:



**How can I tell my mare is about to foal?** Mares about to foal often become restless and show behavioural changes. They can start developing an udder up to 6 weeks before foaling but close to foaling they “wax” up, where they get a small amount of dried milk/calcium deposit on the end of their teats. It is useful to monitor your mare with CCTV cameras so you can check her at all hours. If you can’t monitor your mare overnight it may be worth considering sending her to a stud to foal.

If something goes wrong during foaling, time is of the essence, it’s important to be able to identify any problems quickly.

### 3 stages of foaling

**Stage 1** can last from 2 hours and up to 24 hours, as your mare can control this stage. If your mare becomes stressed, the environment is too noisy, there are too many people watching her, she’ll remain in this stage for longer. Hence most horses give birth at night. During stage 1 your mare may become restless, look at her flank and shift her weight.

**Stage 2** begins with the water breaking and ends with the delivery of the foal. This should take less than 30 minutes. The mare might lie down during that stage and stay down for about 45 minutes, even if the foal is born in the first 10 minutes. Please allow the umbilicus to break naturally and clean the foal’s nose if something is covering it. When the mare is up you can tie her placenta if it’s hanging too low and there’s a danger that she’ll step on it. Try not to intervene if everything looks normal.

**Stage 3** is the delivery of the placenta, this must occur within 3 hours or your mare can become very unwell. The placenta should be kept and inspected to ensure that there are no pieces missing. Over 90% of foalings go well without any human interference.



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### What should I worry about at foaling?

If a thick, velvety, reddish bag appears inside the mare, which you can feel the foal in, you need to **cut the bag open immediately and alert your vet.**

**This situation is called a red bag delivery and is an emergency.** The placenta in this incidence has separated early and is being delivered with the foal. As a result, the oxygen supply to the foal is cut off too early, so the foal can’t breathe. If foaling is taking too long, it is important to **call your vet**, as it may be the foal is too large or is malpresented.

If you have any concerns about foaling it is useful to speak to your vet before hand.