



News from the Team

It has been a busy summer season here at Tyrrells Equine Clinic and we have had some changes to our team.

In July we were very excited to welcome receptionist Sam to the team. Extremely experienced veterinary receptionist Sam is a life long horse and animal lover and has previously worked at small animal practice Kew Vets in Hertfordshire and Essex.

Sadly at the end of September we say goodbye to our lovely vet Lauren. Lauren is moving on to undertake a residency in her area of interest, internal medicine, at the University of Glasgow. A big thank-you to Lauren for all her hard work, she will be greatly missed by our team and clients alike. We wish Lauren the very best of luck for the future.

In October we have experienced equine vet Freda White BVSc, MRCVS joining the team. Originally from Ireland Freda has been horsey from an early age as she grew up living at her fathers equine and farm animal veterinary practice. Most recently Freda has been working at a practice in Suffolk. Welcome Freda!

The Country Tour Sponsored Ride

On the 11th of September we were pleased to attend the Country Tour Sponsored ride which took place from the beautiful Albury Hall nr. Buntingford. It was a super day with great weather and we are happy to report that our raffle raised over £100 for the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance which the event was in aid of.

Charity Cycling Event

From the 27th to the 29th of September principal vet Jason and wife Nicky are taking part in a charity cycle event in Perthshire in Scotland. For this event they are required to cycle 300 miles over 2 and half days through some of Scotland's toughest terrain, climbing over 7000 metres as they go!. This gruelling challenge is in aid of charities SPANA and Hearing dogs for Deaf People. Jason and Nicky are covering the cost of the trip themselves so all funds raised will go directly to the charities. Good luck Jason and Nicky!



Disorders of the Hoof and Frog

Standing in mud and on wet fields predisposes horses feet to soften and subsequent issues to occur so as the autumn weather sets in it is important to think about the health of your horses' feet.

What issues can affect my horses feet?

At this time of year standing in mud and on wet fields can cause softening of your horses horn which can lead to infection, bruising or abscesses. The frog is susceptible to infection with anaerobic bacteria, manifesting as thrush. This will often start as black smelly discharge from the clefts and sulcus of the frog, often in the early stages your horse will show no discomfort. The condition may progress to involve the heel, sometimes maggots can colonise the tissue and occasionally will develop into more serious conditions such as canker, at these stages lameness may be evident. Canker is a proliferative growth of the tissues of the frog, which can also affect the sole. It is very uncommon but if present can be very difficult to treat.

What can I do to prevent problems occurring?

Some horses are prone to these conditions despite excellent management (foot conformation etc. can cause a predisposition). It is important to keep a close eye on your horses' feet, picking them out daily and inspecting them for any abnormalities. Regular farriery can help keep the frog trimmed and prevent the development of cracks and white line disease such as seedy toe.

Preventative strategies include good hoof hygiene, use of a hoof hardener, and periods of time standing on a clean firm surface to allow the feet to dry. In cases where thrush is developing we advise daily cleaning with a disinfectant such as iodine or hibiscrub. This can be syringed into deep sulci. Sometimes hydrogen peroxide can be used for a few days as a disinfectant. Engemycin (antibiotic) spray is recommended to combat superficial infection. If infection tracks deeper into the tissues vigorous debridement and systemic antibiotic treatment is sometimes warranted.

In cases of canker, debridement is the only treatment likely to lead to complete resolution. We often use a laser to reduce haemorrhage and achieve a better end result.

