



News from the Team

In October our principal Jason was pleased to be able to volunteer his time and expertise for a charity healthcare and castration day in St Albans. The day was the result of a collaborative effort from the British Horse Society, the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) Trust, the Blue Cross, Horseworld, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, the RSPCA and World Horse Welfare. The aim of these days is to reduce unintentional breeding, improve welfare and enable new groups of owners to engage with veterinary care. Jason was one of 7 vets who volunteered to castrate 15 colts and stallions and provide worming and tetanus vaccinations, as well as microchipping and passporting

November saw vet Juliette return to the Caribbean for her annual visit to the island of Mustique. Juliette is responsible for the annual health checks, vaccinations and dentistry for the equine population there and carries out routine treatments and investigations during her trip as well. In addition to working hard Juliette also managed to fit in a ride to the sea on lovely chestnut gelding Chester!

Also in November our equine pub quiz in aid of East Anglia's Children's Hospices (EACH) at the Bushel and Strike in Ashwell was a great success. Many thanks to all of you who came and supported the event. Special thanks to all those who donated prizes including Stutley Equestrian, Contessa Riding Centre, The Equine Gift Company, Spillers and The Bushel and Strike. The Evening raised a super £750 for EACH and congratulations to the winning team 'The Knackered Neddies 2'!

Forthcoming Events.....

In January we will be holding our annual collection for The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust (GHBT). GHBT is a small charity dedicated to improving welfare of horses and donkeys in Gambia by providing education, veterinary clinics and equipment. We will be collecting pony/cob size headcollars, bits, numnahs, girths, fly masks and fluorescent items for the whole of January. Donations can be bought to the clinic or passed to a member of the Tyrrells team. For more information contact the office on 01763 287744 / office@tyrrellsequine.co.uk



Now Available

Equisal Tapeworm test the kit uses saliva to tell you if your horse has tapeworm. Available from Tyrrells Equine to use yourself, the sample is then sent to the lab in a pre-paid envelope and one of our vets will report the result to you along with any worming advise you may need all for £17.54. For further information or to order a kit please contact the clinic on 01763 287744 / office@tyrrellsequine.co.uk



Mud Fever

Most common in Autumn and Winter Mud Fever can be a real problem. Here we explain everything you need to know.....

What is Mud Fever?

Mud fever or pastern dermatitis is a skin condition generally found during the autumn and winter months which normally affects the pastern and cannon region. It is thought to be primarily caused by a bacteria called *Dermatophilus Congolensis*, although mixed bacterial populations and an association with feather mites have also been seen.

Bacteria enter the skin through small abrasions. Wet and muddy conditions increase the likelihood of infection, as does skin trauma (e.g. close clipping). Discharge may cause thick scabs and clumping of the hair. The affected areas can be very painful, horses may be lame and in more severe cases bacterial infection can spread either locally or through the tissues further up the leg causing swelling (cellulitis).

How is Mud Fever diagnosed?

Diagnosis is usually made on clinical signs, sometimes we will send off scabs or a swab to be cultured by a lab.

How is Mud Fever treated?

Treatment should include gently soaking off scabs with chlorhexidine scrub (hibiscrub) and drying the skin as these bacteria prefer a moist/low oxygen environment. Clipping may assist in affective treatment, although care should be taken just to clip locally and clean the clippers afterwards to avoid spreading the infection on the blades. Application of antibiotic cream may be useful, barrier creams should be avoided as these can be hard to wash off, in severe cases antibiotics may be prescribed. It is important to wash all brushes and rugs that have been in contact. Recovery may take several weeks.

Mud fever is avoidable. Preventing your horse from standing in wet muddy conditions, as well as good (and prompt) skin/wound management will lower the risk of disease.

