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The Liphook Equine Hospital Newsletter



www.TheLEH.co.uk

February 2009

Client's Evening

We are delighted to invite you to another of our evening meetings, this time to be held on Friday 20 March 2009 at 7 pm at Bohunt School, Liphook. The Guest Speaker will be Inspector Alan Hiscox who commands the Metropolitan Police centre at Imber Court. He will speak on Training the London Police Horse and there will also be a few short talks from members of the practice. We would be delighted to see you, and your family and friends, both from the mainland and the Isle of Wight. Please apply to Reception for tickets.



John Walmsley Retires

John Walmsley, our founding partner who started the practice in 1976, finally left us in December when he retired as a consultant. From what was in those days a small two-man practice, it has grown over the years to the size it is and that is due, in the main, to his foresight, enthusiasm and sheer hard work. Not only does he leave behind a thriving and internationally recognised practice, but he was also honoured by his peers both by the award of an Honorary Fellowship of The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and by his recent Presidency of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons. His enthusiasm, capability and dedication will be missed and we wish him and Caroline all the very best in their retirement in West Wales.

Client Loyalty Bonus

The aim of this scheme is to give a small reward to those loyal, registered first opinion clients who have the misfortune to have a horse or pony that requires an inpatient stay at the Hospital. As with all "good ideas" this scheme comes with some terms and conditions and is at the discretion of the partners, but full details may be found on our website.

In-foal Mares

Forget the old adage of "feeding for two" but instead remember that most mares need little or no supplementary dietary intake during pregnancy. Those that do probably need no more than an extra 25% and that should only be increased during the last six to eight weeks of the pregnancy. It is important to check that the diet contains sufficient calcium in the right ratio with phosphorus (2:1) and if needs be to add a dietary calcium supplement during the last three months of pregnancy. Should you need any advice with regard to feeding in-foal mares please do not hesitate to contact your usual vet. Remember also to ensure that a high level of protection for the mare and, more importantly for the newborn foal, it is advisable for in-foal mares to receive a vaccination booster against flu and tetanus about six weeks before the expected date.



Credit Crunch

In these challenging financial times we have already done - and will continue to do - what we can to minimise any fee increases and to contain the costs of drugs and dressings. However we must ask for the continuing co-operation of all our clients in settling their bills promptly; a delay by one person adds to the financial cost of many. You will appreciate therefore that the partners have instructed the dragons in our Credit Control Department to be ever more vigilant. Thank you all for your support and co-operation in these challenging times.

Staff News



We are delighted to welcome Kate Manners to join our team of vets; she will be based on the Isle of Wight as a member of the Liphook Equine practice. Kate comes to us having previously

worked in a large equine practice in Kent and then as a temporary lecturer and diagnostician at The University of Cambridge Veterinary School. Kate works in conjunction with Emma Deyes and with Peter Gallon who visits the Island on a regular basis

Our "on the road" Liphook team of ambulatory vets is headed by Stuart Duncan and now includes Sarah Boland, Charlie Dean, Peter Gallon, Huw Griffiths, Joanna Dudney, Eamon Smyth, Olivia Lewis and Laura Evans, with occasional assistance from Jeremy Mantell, Giles Summerhays and Andy Durham.

The Future is Bright...

... but not yet orange. Here at Liphook we are delighted to confirm that we have re-negotiated our Lease so that we can continue here for at least another forty years! Whilst that is longer than some of the grey-topped partners can envisage, it does have the major benefit that we can now re-invest in the site and bring the facilities and buildings up to date. We have already commissioned a team of architects from Newmarket to design and build us a new, larger and more up-to-date Equine Hospital and it is hoped that, with satisfactory planning, building work will start later this year. We may well have provisional plans to show you at the Clients' Evening. Work has already begun on the re-building of a new MRI suite - one of only a few in the country capable of taking diagnostic images in the standing horse - and recent visitors will have seen the new access drive which has already been laid. The initial plan envisages a new, large administrative block, together with a new enlarged diagnostic barn. One of our principal aims is to increase the amount of examination and treatment space so that the first opinion clients attending for outpatient clinics will have a dedicated clinic area, ensuring little or no unnecessary waiting.

Complaints

We try as a practice very hard to ensure the best possible treatment for those patients entrusted to our care and to ensure that you, our clients, receive the sort of advice and support that we would wish ourselves. Sometimes however we get it wrong and we may only know about this if you tell us. Without such input we cannot correct and improve. Should you have reason to complain about anything at any time we would ask you that, in the first instance, you make contact as soon as possible with the person concerned. If that does not lead to a satisfactory resolution then, for first opinion clients, please contact Stuart Duncan and for referred clients please contact Tim Phillips. It is always better to do this in writing so that they have access to all the relevant information and can reply to you once they have spoken to all concerned. If you do not feel satisfied after receiving their reply, then please write to The Managing Partner.

Sponsorship

In the past we have always decided against commercial sponsorship and the main reason was that we were acutely aware that the money for such activity would come from the fees that you have already paid. However we do try to encourage and support a wide variety of equestrian activities and we are always pleased to try to help events or shows that are run with the aim of raising money for charity. In addition we are also able to give occasional help to other, non-profit-making events.

Vet News



Sarah Boland had the opportunity to visit the USA in early December to attend the American Association of Equine Practitioners conference which was held in San Diego, California. This was a chance for world-renowned equine vets to present up-to-date research. Many new treatment modalities based on research are helping the welfare of horses and one primary example is the research funded use of short acting steroids in the treatment of endometritis in post-insemination mares. It is really beneficial to be able to keep up to date with the latest and most effective treatment for our equine patients.

Laminitis Looms

With the onset of spring (hopefully in the next couple of months!) there is a markedly increased chance of laminitis. Obviously native ponies which are grass kept present the highest risk group, therefore extra vigilance is needed in order to prevent this horrible condition. Certain ponies appear to be more prone than others to developing the problem and at Liphook we are offering a simple blood test which, following analysis of triglycerides, glucose and insulin, enables us to form a more accurate prediction of certain ponies' predisposition towards developing laminitis. If we can target high risk cases then these would be candidates for more stricter management regimes which might include penning in a corral, use of a muzzle and even night grazing.

Equine Cushing's Disease

Because horses and ponies are better cared for and therefore living longer, we are seeing more cases of Equine Cushing's Disease. There are a number of tests available to help diagnose Equine Cushing's disease and your vet will discuss which is most suitable for your horse. One of the simplest and easiest tests is to obtain a blood sample to measure resting ACTH levels. We have found that at certain times of the year testing may produce a false high level in some cases. However, from January onwards this would be the optimum time for measuring ACTH. This will help to give more information on suspected Cushing's disease cases which may already be presenting with signs of increased curly coat, puffiness above the eyes or laminitis, amongst other signs. With more information and a positive diagnosis it may be worthwhile treating with pergolide which we have found very successful in the management and control of Cushing's disease. Since Cushing's disease is caused by enlargement of the pituitary gland no treatment will actually reduce the size of this enlargement, however the pergolide in many cases goes a long way to controlling the symptoms which in themselves can be life threatening (e.g. laminitis).

Evening Talks

As well as our Clients' Evenings, we are always happy to respond to requests to give talks to Pony Clubs, Riding Clubs or other interested groups.

Breeding Starts Soon

The breeding season will soon be upon us and with those of you who are interested in having your mares inseminated please contact either Sarah Boland or Huw Griffiths at the Liphook Equine Hospital to discuss any queries you may have. We try and produce an all inclusive package of £375 + VAT for chilled semen and £395 + VAT for frozen semen in order to allow mare owners to budget for their breeding mares.

All mares coming to the hospital require a CEM swab for contagious equine metritis as well as a negative blood test for EVA (equine viral arteritis).

Currently CEM (contagious equine metritis) is prevalent in America and Canada with some states reporting positive cases for CEM. This follows on

Contacts



The Liphook Equine Hospital

RECEPTION

The Reception office is open from
0800 until 1730

Monday to Friday and from
0830 to 1230

on Saturday mornings.

The Practice Reception telephone number is

01428 723 594

and all emergency and routine bookings and enquiries should be made through this number.

Veterinary Surgeons:

J A R Mantell
BVetMed, CertEP, MRCVS

G E S Summerhays
*BVetMed, CertES
(Orth), MRCVS*

S W Duncan
BVMS, CertEP, MRCVS

T J Phillips
*BVetMed, CertEP,
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A E Durham
*BSc, BVSc, CertEP, Dip.
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Jane C Boswell
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Hannah Bowen
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T N A McGinley
BVMS, MRCVS

Rachel Tucker BSc,
BVetMed, MRCVS

P T S Smith
BVM&S, MRCVS

Web Site

We now have a completely re-vamped and re-written website which contains much information both about the practice and about your horses' health. Do please visit us at HYPERLINK "<http://www.theleh.co.uk>" www.theleh.co.uk.

from an outbreak in Kentucky and Indiana where a significant number of horses were affected. CEM is primarily a venereal disease affecting mares and stallions which can cause temporary infertility as well as spontaneous abortion in mares. CEM is a notifiable disease, however whilst semen imported into the U.K. for A.I. (artificial insemination) as well as stallions being brought into the country are tested for venereal disease, there is actually no compulsion for stallions standing at stud here to be tested. As vets, we have a code of practice for the control of contagious equine diseases which lays down protocols for reducing the risk of CEM and EVA as well as equine herpes virus, equine infectious anaemia, strangles and equine coital exanthema. The last outbreak of CEM in the U.K. was back in 1985, however a colt last March on its way to Australia tested positive in the U.K. whilst in quarantine.