

Wright & Morten Equine Newsletter



www.wmvets.co.uk

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Talk About Laminitis

As many of you know the Talk About Laminitis Initiative helps test horses for PPID (Cushing's) disease. They fund the laboratory fees for testing horses that have not previously been tested. All horses over 10 years of age are eligible for owners to download a voucher code from the website. It is a great opportunity to test any horse or pony showing signs of Cushing's which can include:



- Long curly coat or abnormal shedding.
- Recurrent infections.
- Fat pads above the eyes.
- Muscle wastage.
- Lethargy.
- Excessive sweating.
- Increased drinking/urination.

And of course PPID is a risk factor for Laminitis.

Although grass can be a trigger for laminitis, up to 90% of cases are caused by an underlying hormonal disease, such as PPID (Cushing's disease) or Equine Metabolic Syndrome 1, 2. Over the past three years, Talk About Laminitis has highlighted this link and sponsored the testing of over 40,000 horses and ponies for PPID and vets now routinely test for both hormonal diseases when dealing with their laminitic patients. This has contributed to PPID becoming the sixth most frequently encountered disease affecting horses in the UK.

The laboratory fees for the ACTH test used to diagnose PPID will be free of charge until the end of October 2016. Horse owners can find out more and obtain their free ACTH voucher code at www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk. This voucher means that the cost to you of the test is only £25 when carried out on a zone visit. This covers the sample collection and postage and packing.



For further information on laminitis and PPID visit www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk. Or discuss it with any of our equine team.

Free Visit Scheme

The Free Visit Scheme or Zone visits continue to be popular. The appointments on the non-dental days are suitable for routine calls such as vaccinations and microchipping. The appointment times are very short so these days are not suitable for anything which would require a full consultation. These should be booked as a normal appointment where there are no constraints on the vet's time with you.

We will let you know what time the vet is coming the day before your appointment. This may not be suitable for everyone in which case we would recommend booking a normal visit when you can arrange a specific time for your appointment. With the very routine appointments it may be easier for you to arrange for someone else to be there. That is not a problem as long as the person you nominate is used to handling your horse and the passport is present.

As we don't charge the visit fee for these days we do request that you pay at the time for your horse's treatment. Payment can be made by cash, cheque, card or bank transfer. If someone else is going to be there you may prefer to pay over the phone in advance. If we don't receive payment on the day and then need to send you an invoice we may unfortunately, have to impose a charge to cover the extra administration costs incurred.

As we are aware of the demand for slots on both the normal and dental days we send out your reminders well in advance (at least 2 months) to make sure that you have the opportunity of booking a slot on the zone day of your choice.

How to Apply a Foot Poultice

The most common reason for poulticing a horse's foot is an abscess, which is a collection of pus within a cavity in the hoof and is probably the most common cause of acute lameness in the horse.

Hot tubbing for 10-15 mins before a poultice is used is a good way of helping draw pus from the foot. Epsom salts mixed into the water will help soften the area to allow the pus to burst, drain and flush the cavity.

A poultice can be applied wet or dry, usually for the first 3-5 days this will be a hot, wet poultice.

Materials required:

- Animalintex/poultice material.
- Hot water, allowed to cool to body temperature.
- Soffban (soft padding bandage).
- Vet wrap.
- Duct tape or Elastoplast.



One of the most difficult things with applying a poultice is trying to do it on your own, so if possible get someone to pass you things or hold the leg up for you. Be prepared, so open all bandage materials and have your square of duct tape close by so once you have applied your bandage you can stick it to the bottom without getting your bandage dirty.

1. Make a square of duct tape on the wall by tearing strips and overlapping them.
2. Cut a square of poultice large enough to cover the affected area.
3. Make sure the foot is clean, so apply poultice after hot tubbing or use a brush to remove any dirt.
4. Using warm water, soak the poultice, ring off the excess water, place over the affected area. Always have the plastic side away from the foot.
5. Using the soft padding bandage wrap the foot, encasing the poultice to hold in place.
6. Repeat using the vet wrap bandage, this needs to be done fairly snug to hold in place.

7. Place the duct tape square over the bottom of the bandaged foot. Alternatively use elastoplast bandage around the foot.
8. A hoof poultice should be changed every 24hrs unless instructed otherwise by your vet.



Finding You

Please take a minute to check that we are holding the correct address and contact details for you. It's so difficult to remember everyone you need to notify when you change address or phone number. There are certain circumstances in which it is important for us to be able to contact you quickly and vital time can be wasted when we find we have an obsolete number for you. Most importantly of all please let us know if you change yards – it can be very embarrassing for everyone if the vet arrives at one yard and you are waiting at another. You can ring the office on the usual number or email us on: hollytree@wmvets.co.uk with any changes.

FARM AND EQUINE

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