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Welcome

The equine team are excited to publish our first quarterly newsletter. Throughout the year we will aim to touch on different subjects that we feel may be of interest to you. If you have any suggestions please feel free to contact us at Southwell.

Are you Worming Correctly?

It is a common misconception that horses and ponies **MUST** be wormed every 4-6 weeks. However did you know that 80% of the worm burden is carried by only 20% of the equine population, meaning that most of us are actually worming our horses and ponies unnecessarily?



Unnecessary worming not only means unnecessary cost to you but more importantly contributes to resistance in worm populations, something we are seeing more and more of.

To help offer the best protection for the horses and ponies under our care Minster Vet Centre have developed an improved worming package for our clients, providing you with a tailor-made programme and expert advice specific to your individual horse or pony.

Included in the package:

4x Faecal Egg Counts (FEC)
1x Equest Pramox Wormer
General worming plan
Tailored worming advice for your horse and pony dependent on their individual FEC results



By using FECs we can use a targeted approach to worming, allowing our vets to assess the worm burden in your particular horse or pony, and therefore advise on the correct wormer to use – or not use! – throughout the year.

There are some worms which are not detectable on FEC such as tapeworms. As part of the Worming Package we can advise on the best time to worm to prevent these, as well as the best products to use.

Please contact the Southwell practice to have a chat to a member of our equine team about worming.

Gastric Ulcers

We are very excited to announce that we are now able to offer endoscopy and gastroscopy as part of our mobile diagnostic services.

Our new specially designed scope will allow us to visualise your horses respiratory tract or stomach

The prevalence of gastric ulcers is suspected to be as high as 1 in 3, and often remains undiagnosed in a number of cases. Relative to the size of a horse, their stomach is small. As horses are natural grazing animals they are designed to have food material in the

stomach at all times and therefore continuously produce gastric juices. If there is not sufficient material in the stomach to neutralise these gastric juices, ulceration can occur.

The stomach is separated into a non-glandular squamous region and a glandular region. Gastric ulcers can develop in either region although are most commonly found in the non-glandular area.



Diet, management, stress and exercise regimes are the main risk factors.

Symptoms vary greatly and do not always correlate to the severity of the ulcers.

Loss of appetite, weight loss, poor performance and mild or recurring colic signs are reported signs although in some cases the horse may just be out of character.

As we move into the winter months and the weather takes a turn for the worse, stabling becomes more frequent. This management change can increase the chance of ulcer development.

If you have any concerns regarding gastric ulcers, please contact us at the Southwell Practice.

Equine Services

- Vaccinations
- Routine dental work
- Passports and ID chipping
- New health checks
- Blood Testes
- Worming advice
- Pre- purchase exams (vettings)
- Colt castrates
- Fully mobile diagnostics including x-ray, ultrasound, endoscopy, gastroscopy
- Lameness/ Poor performance work ups
- Emergency colic treatment
- Routine fertility work