



June Newsletter 2017

Abbey Equine Centre
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Celebrating Eight Years at Llansabbath Barns!

Those Darned Pesky Flies!

Now with the warmer weather approaching (we hope!) make sure you are prepared for those infuriating insects! Here at the surgery we stock a wide range of fly control products, including Coopers Fly Repellent, Benzyl Benzoate, Switch and Dermoline Insecticidal Shampoo. Most products can be ordered for the following morning. So if you are bothered by bugs then give us a call!

Faecal Egg Counts

Now summer is upon us we need to work together to ensure our horses are worm free. If your horse has been covered for both tapeworm and encysted small redworm over the spring period, we can now monitor for any strongyle eggs in faecal samples and treat accordingly. This method of worming is called 'Targeted' worming and we only worm when there is already a burden and this significantly reduces the threat of resistance to our classes of drugs. The test is very simple, inexpensive and is carried out very quickly at our veterinary laboratory. Please feel free to collect a sample kit from the surgery which contains everything you need, complete with instructions and information sheet.

Dates for your Diary - June

2nd – SWHP Promise Auction @ Royal Oak, Hereford Road
3rd – Monmouthshire Hunt Show, Park Farm
4th – SWHP Fun ride, Coxstone, Monmouth
6th – Ascot Sales
8th-10th - Royal Cornwall Show, Wadebridge
16th – 18th – Royal Three Counties Show, Malvern

Bumper Sticker - The winner of May's Bumper Sticker Competition is Jo Barry. Just for displaying our car sticker Jo wins a lovely prize! Remember to display our sticker and if one of our vets spots it, you could be in for a prize!

ACTH Blood Test Offer - Boehringer Ingleheim Animal Health have again started their Free ACTH blood tests from 1st June until the end of October 2017. For more information please go to www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk

Welcome to Maria Watts our new equine office manager. Maria has a wealth of equine knowledge and comes from an equine background having worked at hunt kennels and an insurance company. Please be patient whilst Maria settles in, but were sure she'll be a great asset once she finds her feet.

Aintree Foal Milk/Colostrum

Don't forget we always have in stock Aintree foal milk, colostrum and rubber teats for feeding should you need it.

Text Reminders

We are able to send you a text reminder about your horses' vaccination date. If you would like to receive your reminder by text please call in to make sure your details are up to date.

Our vaccination reminder service is courtesy only, it is your responsibility to make sure your horses' vaccinations are up to date.

Ragwort Awareness Month

At this time of the year fields should be kept clear of weeds, particularly ragwort. Ragwort grows from June onwards and can grow from 30-100cm high! Ragwort is one of the most common causes of poisoning in horses. Symptoms include constipation and loss of condition and appetite. During the later stages ragwort poisoning can cause irreversible liver damage resulting in diarrhoea, blind staggers and frequently death. Plants should be pulled up by the roots and since toxins can be absorbed through the skin, gloves should be worn. Care should be taken when disposing of the removed plants as seeds can spread easily from the flowers.

Laminitis alert!

Spring has arrived at last! Please be careful with the lush grass coming through. Laminitis is a disease that causes the laminae of the hoof to die away due to poor blood flow. The exact cause of this is complex and there are many predisposing factors that can lead to laminitis. Among the most common are grain engorgement, grazing on lush pastures, Cushings and post-foaling metritis. Laminitis tends to be most common in spring, when horses are able to graze upon grasses high in soluble carbohydrates. For this reason, fat ponies can be particularly prone to the disease. A horse with laminitis will be reluctant to move and have a potterly gait. Due to the breakdown of the laminae, the pedal bone may rotate or sink within the hoof capsule, which can be seen with x-ray. Prevention of laminitis is key. Keeping your horse at a healthy weight, monitoring diet and regular farriery are all important. Vets can do more for the laminitic pony in the earlier stages of the disease, so prompt veterinary attention is a must!

Joke Corner:

How do you make a small fortune out of horses?
Start with a large fortune....

If you take your horse to a hotel where would it stay?
In the bridle suite!