



February Newsletter 2016



Abbey Equine Centre
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'Love is in the Air' (AI)

The technique of AI in mares has gone from strength to strength in recent years. Early organisation is essential as one must choose a stallion early in the season – now is the time to start planning! Decide which stallion you wish to use and liaise with them early, as nearly all reputable studs require a valid CEM/EVA (+EIA possibly) certificate. These tests take between 7 and 10 days to run, so please avoid that last minute panic. We are again offering discount packages for fresh and frozen semen for your mare. If you're interested or have any queries regarding the process of AI please call the clinic and speak to David Holman. We also offer frozen semen storage (cryotherapy) here at the clinic for a monthly charge.

Heather Ferguson MRCVS

We would like to welcome our newest recruit, vet Heather Ferguson to Abbey Equine Vets. Heather will be making her way around the South Wales area and we would like to ask clients to provide good, clear directions to help Heather find her way around. Heather has particular interests in internal medicine, anaesthesia and ophthalmology and is currently working towards a certificate in advanced veterinary practice. As well as being a horse owner herself, Heather enjoys running, swimming and cycling.

Dates for Your Diary:

- 9th – Pancake Day!
- 14th – Sinai Winter Dressage @ Usk College
- 21st – Curre and Llangibby Point to Point, Howick Farm
- 23rd – Ascot Horse Sales

Update on Surgical Equipment.

In recent months Abbey Equine has been able to expand its range of veterinary diagnostic and treatment equipment. A new portable digital xray processing system now allows us to take and develop radiographs at the owner's premises where necessary e.g. laminitic horses or ponies where we do not want them to travel or pre-purchase examinations which require multiple xrays. The system is able to develop the xrays in seconds for viewing and we can easily send the pictures to farriers or other veterinary surgeons if needed. Although this machine is portable we do still prefer our lameness investigations to come to the clinic where we have a dedicated safe xray room to help us take the best quality pictures. We have recently purchased a 3m long endoscope which allows us to visualise the horses' stomach – a process known as gastroscopy. This is essential for diagnosis of gastric ulcers, a common problem found in many performance horses. This endoscope shares the viewing screen with our normal respiratory endoscope which gives owners and vets an excellent view of the whole stomach lining. Gastroscopy will need to be undertaken at the clinic following a period of overnight fasting. Having our own gastroscopie will reduce the waiting time previously encountered whilst having to book a visit from external veterinary surgeons and will enable treatment, if needed, to be started much sooner. Our vets have recently spent the day with Dr Tim Brazil (leading internal medicine expert) learning how to safely use the gastroscopie. A second motorised burr system for equine dentals has also been added to the practice armoury which will allow two vets to be performing routine procedures on a daily basis so we are able to offer this service during our 'Zone Days' as well as specific 'Dental Days'.

During the time Sarah Carr is on sabbatical she will be here for specialised 'Dental Days' at the clinic for any of the more complicated cases we encounter. Having trained up all of our vets with the new equipment before she left your horses' teeth will be in great hands.

Abbey Veterinary Centres continues to invest in equipment for the equine division to allow us to continue offering a high standard of care for your horse. If you have any further questions or queries or would like to book an appointment please call the clinic on 01873 840069 or email equine@abbeyvets.co.uk.

Car Sticker Competition

If you haven't already, please feel free to collect a bumper sticker to display on your car/horsebox/trailer/tack room and if one of our members of staff spot it you could be one of our lucky monthly winners! This month's winner of a fantastic prize is Pat Miles of Nelson. To be in with a chance of winning just give us a call on reception to order your free sticker.

Wormer of the Month

Equest is a single dose treatment containing Moxidectin to control red worms, roundworms, encysted cyathostome larvae and bots! With its long dosing interval of 13 weeks Equest is excellent value for money at £14.39 (inc VAT) Buy 10 and get one FREE! Or alternatively why not opt for a faecal egg count? This is a simple, inexpensive, in-house test to see whether your horse has any worm eggs in its faeces. If you need further guidance on the confusing issue of worming, please call Karen at the surgery.

Client Evening

A big thank you to everyone who attended our recent client evening entitled 'How to Grow a Leg'. The informative evening had some excellent feedback and a great turnout. It was great to see so many people supporting the evening. Please get in touch with us if you have any ideas for topics for future client evenings.

Abbey Equine Calendars 2016

We still have a few calendars available at the surgery to purchase. Just give us a call to reserve your copy! They're priced at just £8 each including a donation to SWHP.