

## Hospitalisation facilities

We all hope our horses will never need prolonged veterinary care, but should this happen you can feel reassured that Abbey Equine Clinic is able to provide them with comfortable, safe surroundings and professional medical and nursing attention.

Our large, airy loose boxes are located within a cosy American barn-style yard. This is adjoining the main building so we can monitor all the horses closely. Our experienced nursing team are responsible for stable duties, feeding and general care of the horses. We have facilities for I/V fluid therapy and intensive care where required and an on-site laboratory for immediate blood test results. All of this means that each horse has continuous care by the same people so any problems can be immediately spotted and dealt with.

### **Anaesthesia and Surgery**

We have the facilities to perform general anaesthesia for routine and emergency surgery. The specially designed anaesthetic box has thickly padded walls making knock-down and recovery as safe as possible.

What happens if my horse has to have an anaesthetic?

For planned anaesthetics, it's best to remove all feed from the horse the night before the anaesthetic, but always leave them water. We shall probably ask you to bring the horse in on the morning of the operation and leave them with us for the day or several days depending on the operation.

They will have a health check and heart examination, have a catheter placed in the vein so we don't need to use lots of needles, and are given a sedative about half an hour before the operation. Just before the surgery, we take them into the padded box, and give more sedative and an anaesthetic drug into the catheter which sends them to sleep. A tube is then placed via the horse's mouth in to the windpipe, a gas anaesthetic and oxygen mixture is given continuously, and the horse is monitored constantly throughout the operation. The anaesthetic gas is switched off towards the end of the surgery, and the horse is kept still as long as possible until he is awake enough to stand up on his own.

Horses are then walked back to a comfy stable to recover quietly and are given feed and water as soon as they are fully awake. One of the team will give you a ring as soon as the horse is up to let you know that everything is OK.