

Does Your Foal Have a Passport Yet?



Legislation states that all foals must be microchipped and passported by 31st December in the year they were born or by six months of age (if born after 1st July). It is no longer compulsory that the silhouette markings are completed when you apply for a passport, although many societies still require this to be done.

If your yearling has not yet been passported, please contact us as soon as possible to arrange for it to be done. If you have chosen a particular society to register your yearling with, please obtain the registration forms directly from them (They can sometimes be printed from society websites). You need to make sure your yearling is well handled before arranging the visit for microchipping. If your yearling is at least six months old, it is an ideal time to start vaccinations too.

VAT Change

To soften the blow of the recent VAT rise, we have absorbed the increase for some of our charges such as tooth rasping and scanning of mares. We are also keeping all our Health Plan charges at the original price.

Half Price Visit Dates Feb to Apr

On the dates below, visits are £15 + VAT. To qualify as half price, visits must be booked at least two days in advance and take place between 9am and 4pm. It is not always possible to specify a particular vet for your half price visit. Please see our website for further details.

Mar 2011	Apr 2011	May 2011	Area	Postcode of Stables
8 th	12 th	10 th	Darwen, Tockholes, Hoddesden	BB3,
7 th & 21 st	4 th & 18 th	3 rd & 16 th	Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Huncoat	BB5
16 th	20 th	18 th	Ribble Valley West (Mellor, Clayton le Dale)	BB2
10 th	14 th	12 th	Ribble Valley East (Clitheroe, and Gisburn)	BB7
14 th & 29 th	11 th & 26 th	9 th & 31 st	Burnley, Brierfield, Barrowford, Briercliffe,	BB9, BB10, BB11, BB12
15 th	19 th	17 th	Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Waterfoot, Rossendale	BB4
2 nd	6 th	4 th	Great Harwood, Rishton, Clayton-le-Moors, Blackburn	BB6, BB1
30 th	21 st	24 th	East Preston	PR3
28 th	27 th	23 rd	Ramsbottom, Edenfield, Bury and Rochdale	BL0, BL9 / 8 OL11/13

ALDINGTON

Equine Vets Ltd



Winter Newsletter

Practice News

2011 Worming Programme Now Available

Our recommended worming programme for this year is available from our website or from our surgery shop. If you call in to our shop, you can also pick up our free calendar stickers to ensure you don't miss a worming dose or worm egg count.

Laminitis and Colic Warning

During December and January we have seen an increase in cases of both laminitis and colic. There are many factors which can trigger these conditions but we think the recent severe winter weather has forced many horse owners to change their normal routine and inadvertently predispose their horses to laminitis and colic. Here are a few tips to lessen the chances of your horse being affected:

- Avoid turnout on visibly frosty grass for horses and ponies prone to laminitis or colic.
- Ensure your horses water supply does not freeze for more than a few hours at a time.
- Make any changes in diet as gradually as possible.
- Feed a high fibre feed in every bucket feed.
- Give 3-4 small hay / haylage nets per day rather than two large ones if your horse is not being turned out.
- Give a probiotic supplement (such as Protexin Gut Balancer) if you have to make an unavoidable change in diet or routine.
- Monitor bodyweight by using a weigh tape every 2 weeks (Weigh tapes and record cards are available from our shop)

Tel 01254 888600

24 hour emergencies
Office hours 8.30am – 5.30pm
Saturdays 9am – 12pm

www.equine-vet.co.uk

Results of Our Client Survey

Last year, we commissioned Qualivet, a company specialising in veterinary practice client satisfaction surveys, to conduct a survey to give us valuable feedback on how well you think we are doing. The results were presented to us last autumn and we are proud to say that we were the most highly rated practice they had ever tested. The survey assessed many different aspects of the practice and our results were compared with the average for equine vets in the UK. Some of our results for the "Vets and Office Staff" category are shown below:

	Us	UK average
Punctuality of the vet	81	75
Sympathy of the vet	88	87
Your confidence in the vet's diagnosis	84	83
Phone calls returned within a reasonable time	82	77
How promptly phone calls are answered	83	76
Helpfulness of office staff	84	80
Politeness and courtesy of office staff	89	83

Although our results were very pleasing, there is always room for improvement. One area we are working on is responding to your telephone enquiries. Our vets are often very busy and are not always in a position to return a phone call quickly, but if there is likely to be a delay before your chosen vet is able to respond, we will now ring or text you to let you know that your message had been passed to the vet and will be dealt with as soon as they are available.

Horse Owners Meeting at Mytton Fold

We are holding our horse owners meeting at Mytton Fold Hotel on Wednesday 6th April 2011. This year's topics include Laminitis and Worming your horse. The event is free admittance, a hot supper is provided and everyone is welcome. An invitation should be enclosed, please RSVP the practice so we can organize the catering

Contagious Disease Prevention Promotion

We are continuing to see outbreaks of contagious diseases in the practice area including strangles and Equine Herpes Virus. Everyone should be on the lookout for these diseases because they are easier to treat and less likely to spread if they are detected early. You should also take practical precautions to reduce the chances of your horse becoming infected. To help our clients become fully informed, we have produced two new information sheets on "Control and Prevention of Contagious Diseases" and "Contagious Respiratory Infections". These are available free from our website and our surgery shop.

Thank you to those yard owners who attended our meeting in January on Prevention and Control of Contagious Diseases, kindly sponsored by Pfizer Animal Health, who provided the evening's speaker, Ben Gaskell

Pre-breeding Swabbing of Mares and Stallions

A new laboratory test has become available for pre-breeding testing of mares and stallions for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM). The PCR test gives results in 3 Days rather than 8 days for the traditional swab culture. The new test costs £42.60 (Compared to £30.60 for the traditional culture test).

The British Equine Veterinary Association and British Equestrian Federation are currently running a campaign to try to ensure all semen used for inseminating mares in the UK is taken from stallions which have been fully tested for venereal diseases. They have produced a certificate which should be sent with all semen shipments and have advised vets that any semen which is sent without the appropriate paperwork should be discarded and not used for A.I.



Prescribing of "Bute"

We would like to remind our clients that we have to adhere to the veterinary medicines legislation when prescribing or dispensing any horse medicines. Medicines such as "bute", antibiotics and sedatives are classed as "POM-V" medicines. The legislation states that we must have examined the horse under treatment for the condition being treated before we are allowed to prescribe the medication. This means we can only supply these products after we have examined the horse.

For horses on long term medication, we have to re-examine them after a maximum of six months (or a shorter time if the vet decides this is required) for us to be able to provide a repeat prescription. Only a vet can dispense any medication required.

These rules are in place to safeguard your horse's health as well as to ensure sensible use of veterinary medicines. Please bear this in mind when contacting the surgery to ask for medicines to be supplied for your horse. We also require 24hrs notice before medicines or prescriptions are ready for collection.



Online Client Competition

Visit our website and follow the link to our quiz. Answer 3 simple questions on equine health, enter your name and e-mail address and you will be entered in to a draw to win a £50 voucher to spend in our shop (or put towards your next vets' bill).

We would like to encourage as many clients as possible to have our newsletters e-mailed rather than posted. If you are not currently receiving our newsletters by e-mail and wish to do so, please enter our competition and tick the relevant box or e-mail us at info@equine-vet.co.uk

