

"Client's Point of View" Competition Winner

Congratulations to Susan Sumner, the winner of our competition who wrote:

"You don't throw a whole life away just because he's banged up a little". I couldn't get these words from the film about the racehorse "Seabiscuit" out of my head. I had just received the devastating news that my chestnut thoroughbred mare, Millie had osteoarthritis.

The future wasn't so rosy. In fact, it was very black indeed. Dreams of hacking along sunlit lanes on her had turned into nightmares of euthanasia as the spectre of illness reared its ugly head. Millie was diagnosed with the disease when she was just nine years old. David Aldington had carried out various tests when she went lame. She went to the Rainbow Equine Clinic, York, for a scan which revealed the extent of the illness.

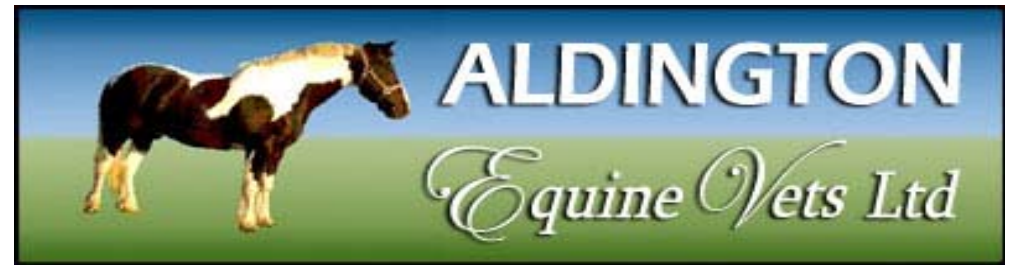


It was up to David to outline the options. She couldn't be ridden, but wasn't in pain. His depth of veterinary knowledge, a listening ear and bucketfuls of patience and seven years later, I have a happy horse, living life to the full. I know to many people the idea of keeping an unrideable horse would be untenable, but for me, to see Millie come out of her stable this morning like a racehorse, and go bucking and cantering across the field with her good friend Tara is reward enough. She has had a fantastic "early retirement". I have been lucky in having great support from a terrific livery yard and friends who have enabled me to ride other horses. Millie has been a wonderful friend and companion to me. If it hadn't been for David, her life would have been over at the age of nine. Instead, she's living the life of Riley, enjoying every minute. Sometimes I think she's having me on!

Half Price Visit Dates Oct, Nov and Dec

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. Days book up well in advance and are allocated on a first come first served basis. Please see our website for further details.

| Oct | Nov | Dec | Area | Postcode of Stables |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 11 th | 8 th | 13 th | Darwen, Tockholes, Hoddlesden | BB3, |
| 3 rd & 17 th | 7 th & 21 st | 5 th & 19 th | Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Huncoot | BB5 |
| 19 th | 16 th | 21 st | Ribble Valley West (Mellor, Clayton le Dale) | BB2 |
| 13 th | 10 th | 8 th | Ribble Valley East (Clitheroe, and Gisburn) | BB7 |
| 10 th & 25 th | 14 th & 29 th | 12 th & 28 th | Burnley, Brierfield, Barrowford, Briercliffe, | BB9, BB10, BB11, BB12 |
| 18 th | 15 th | 20 th | Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Waterfoot, Rossendale | BB4 |
| 5 th | 2 nd | 7 th | Great Harwood, Rishton, Clayton-le-Moors, Blackburn | BB6, BB1 |
| 31 st | 22 nd | 23 rd | East Preston | PR3 |
| 24 th | 28 th | 22 nd | Ramsbottom, Edenfield, Bury and Rochdale | BL0, BL9 / 8 OL11/13 |



Autumn Newsletter

"Talk About Cushings" Initiative



"Talk About Cushings" is a national initiative to improve awareness and understanding of Equine Cushings Disease. It has been organized by the veterinary medicines company Boehringer-Ingelheim, in partnership with Redwings Sanctuary, World Horse Welfare and British Horse Society.

Now that we know the underlying cause in 80% of laminitis cases is a hormonal imbalance such as Cushings disease, finding out if it is present in your horse is an important first step.

You can download a **£15 voucher** to be redeemed at Aldington Equine Vets against the cost of blood testing for Equine Cushings disease. The voucher must be presented to the vet when they attend to take the sample. The voucher offer runs until end of November 2011.

To download your voucher and for more information, visit www.talkaboutcushings.co.uk, then call our clinic to arrange a visit.

Autumn Special Offers

Free "Club Together" Visits

During November and December we will waive our usual call out fee if we see five or more horses on the same yard at the same visit and payment is made at the time of treatment. It is worth clubbing together with other owners on your yard to arrange a visit at the same time. To make this easier, you can print a poster from our website to pin up on the yard notice board. Please see our website for terms and conditions.

Sexing of Foals During Pregnancy

Our stud vet Mariate has some experience of diagnosing the sex of foetuses using ultrasound scanning and she wishes to further her knowledge by scanning mares at 60-120 days of pregnancy. We are currently offering scans for mares at this stage of pregnancy for **half price**. The scan will check development of the foal and look for any abnormalities, but please note that it is not always possible to diagnose the sex depending on the position of the embryo and co-operation of the mare at the time.

Tel 01254 888600

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

www.equine-vet.co.uk

Practice News

New Vet

We would like to introduce you to the newest member of our veterinary team, **Katie Wright BVMS MRCVS**.

Katie originates from a small town in Northern Ireland and qualified with distinction from the University of Glasgow in 2009. After qualifying she worked in mixed practice then spent a year in equine practice before joining our team. Katie has ridden since a young age. She does not currently have any horses of her own, so enjoys borrowing others people's instead! Katie enjoys all aspects of equine practice and has a particular interest in lameness and medical cases.



New Dental Equipment and Training



We are continuing to invest in dental equipment and have a new battery operated burr due to arrive soon. The new burr is the latest technology in motorised dental equipment and runs with an ultra-quiet motor. The unit will allow our vets to carry out motorised work at stables with no mains electricity.

As well as new equipment, we have been investing in further dental training for our vets. Earlier in the year Sarah attended an Advanced Dentistry course and is currently studying the dental module as part of the RCVS Certificate in Advanced Medicine. Katie will also be attending a two day dental training course at the end of October.

All our vets recently attended the annual British Equine Veterinary Association congress in Liverpool where a wide range of subjects were covered including lameness investigation and stud medicine.

Colic

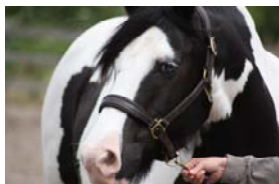


As winter approaches, it is inevitable that you will need to make changes to your horse's feeding, stabling and exercise regimes. Unfortunately this does make autumn a higher risk period for colic. A decrease in turnout time and change from grass to forage can predispose to impactions of the large intestines and spasmodic colic.

We advise making any changes to your horse's routine gradually over a period of a few weeks and ensure fresh water is always available, especially in winter when freezing temperatures occur. Giving a probiotic supplement (such as Protexin Gut Balancer) can help to minimize the changes in gut bacteria whenever a diet change is made. We recommend worming with a product that covers tapeworm in autumn to prevent high tapeworm burdens which have been proven to cause colic.

"Make Your Horse a Star!" Winner

Congratulations to Anne Lomax and her handsome piebald gelding 'Billy' who was the winner of our 'Make Your Horse a Star!' competition. Billy will be featured on our new vaccination reminder cards which will be arriving through your letter boxes soon! A Gallery of our other entries can be seen on our website www.equine-vet.co.uk or Facebook page.



Farrier Feature



Many of you will recognise Craig D'Arcy BSc Hons AWCF of Red Rose Farriers. Craig will be contributing an editorial to each of our newsletters, featuring seasonal and topical issues relating to farriery. Craig writes:

A question often asked at this time of year of the farrier is about taking the shoes off your horse or pony for winter.

Obviously the amount of work you aim to undertake with the animal is a big factor. If you are going to keep the animal in work then the answer has to be stick to your usual foot care and shoeing rota. If you aim to give your horse some time off, then maybe you could consider resting the feet.

However before rushing into this you should consider a few factors: Talk to your farrier about the suitability of taking the shoes off your animal. Some types of conformation, foot shape and hoof conditions do not respond well to going barefoot after years of being shod.

Some of the harsh winters we have had in the last few years have caused the ground to be very hard with frost and snow. Many local Farriers saw horses on their rounds with bruised soles from the snow and ice building up under the sole.

With the varying ground conditions we have during the winter in the North West of England it is essential you keep a close eye on your horse's feet and maintain good hoof care. If in doubt ask advice from your farrier or vet.



www.rrfarriers.co.uk

New Digital X-Ray Machine

We have recently purchased a new digital X-ray processor. This will enable us to take better quality images, and to produce CD's of the images or email them directly through to referral centres, other practices and farriers. Although it is preferable (for reasons of X-ray safety and for practicality) for horses to attend our clinic for X-rays, we are able to take X-rays at your stables if required and in certain cases, the processor can be brought out with the vet so X-rays can be developed on site as well. This is particularly useful for vettings and for remedial shoeing visits in conjunction with your farrier.



Polite Reminders

Insurance Claims - Now is the peak season for claims and as such we are finding that some companies are being very slow in dealing with them. We rely on you as the policy holder to keep your claim progressing. Please read and deal with any correspondence sent to you by your insurers or ourselves, and ensure that any extra information or continuation claim forms required are forwarded to the appropriate parties promptly.

Repeat Prescriptions - We require at least 48 hours notice for any written prescriptions or medication for collection / postage. Only the vet treating your horse can dispense or write the prescription and they may need to speak to you directly before doing so.