

## Outbreak of Equine Infectious Anaemia

Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA / Swamp Fever) has been detected in two horses in Wiltshire following importation from Romania via Belgium. This is the second case of EIA imported from Romania since the start of 2010.

DEFRA confirmed the disease, also known as swamp fever, on February 19 and announced that the affected premises had been put under restriction. Both infected horses have been humanely destroyed in line with existing regulations, while other horses on the premises are subject to epidemiological testing.

The first reported case of EIA, also in Wiltshire, was announced by DEFRA on January 19<sup>th</sup> and was the first case in the UK for over 34 years. The disease is not transferable to humans but is usually fatal in horses. If an infected horse manages to survive, it will carry the disease for life, so it is likely that DEFRA would instigate compulsory euthanasia. The symptoms of EIA may be acute or chronic. Outward signs of the acute form include fever, depression, bloody diarrhoea, loss of coordination, rapid weight loss, skin swelling and jaundice. The chronic form is seen as intermittent fever, anaemia, weight loss and weakness.

## Half Price Visit Dates Apr to Jun

On the dates below, Economy Visits are £12 + VAT and Premium Visits are £14.50 + VAT. Visits must be booked at least two days in advance and take place between 9am and 4pm to qualify. It is not always possible to specify a particular vet for your visit. Please see our website for further details.

| April 2010                          | May 2010                            | June 2010                           | Area  | Postcode of Stables   |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| 13 <sup>th</sup>                    | 1 <sup>st</sup>                     | 8 <sup>th</sup>                     | Darwen, Tockholes, Hoddlesden                       | BB3,                  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup>  | 4 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup>  | 7 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup>  | Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Huncote          | BB5                   |
| 21 <sup>st</sup>                    | 19 <sup>th</sup>                    | 16 <sup>th</sup>                    | Ribble Valley/West Mellor, Claytonle Dale           | BB2                   |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>                    | 12 <sup>th</sup>                    | 9 <sup>th</sup>                     | Ribble Valley East (Clitheroe, and Gisburn)         | BB7                   |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> | 10 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> | 14 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> | Burnley, Brierfield, Barrowford, Briercliffe,       | BB9, BB10, BB11, BB12 |
| 20 <sup>th</sup>                    | 18 <sup>th</sup>                    | 15 <sup>th</sup>                    | Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Waterfoot, Rossendale      | BB4                   |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>                     | 5 <sup>th</sup>                     | 2 <sup>nd</sup>                     | Great Harwood, Rishton, Clayton-le-Moors, Blackburn | BB6, BB1              |
| 23 <sup>rd</sup>                    | 28 <sup>th</sup>                    | 25 <sup>th</sup>                    | East Preston  | PR3                   |
| 26 <sup>th</sup>                    | 27 <sup>th</sup>                    | 28 <sup>th</sup>                    | Ramsbottom, Edenfield, Bury and Rochdale            | BL0, BL9 / 8 OL11/13  |



## Spring Newsletter

### Annual Horse Owners' Meeting

In conjunction with Whalley Corn Mills  
13<sup>th</sup> April 2010 at Mytton Fold Hotel Langho BB6 8AB

*What Is Colic And Why Are Horses So Prone To It?*

By Juliette Condie BVetMed MRCVS

*Feeding to Minimise The Risk Of Colic*

By Louise Jones, Dodson & Horrell Ltd

*An Insight in to A.I. and Embryo Transfer*

By David Aldington BVSc MRCVS

Everyone Welcome

Supper Provided

Please call us on 01254 888600 if you would like to attend

### Blood Testing for Strangles

We are still seeing occasional cases of strangles in the area. The most likely source of infection is a "symptomless carrier" – A horse shedding the bacteria without showing any signs of disease in itself. A blood test is the easiest way to identify these carriers so they can be treated. Whenever a new horse with unknown history is brought on to a yard, it is sensible to have a blood test carried out. It is worth considering blood testing before a horse is purchased just in case it could be the source of an outbreak on the new yard.

Tel 01254 888600

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

You can now arrange a visit at.....

www.equine-vet.co.uk

## Latest Practice News

### New Receptionist and Handler



Annabelle Rigby joined us in February as receptionist, credit controller and horse handler. She has been a client of the practice for over 7 years with her horses Jim and Gucci. Annabelle has recently worked at a yard in Lumb, Rossendale giving escorted Fell pony hacks around the Mary Towneley Loop and training for her BHS stage exams and PTT teaching certificate.

### Changes to Credit Terms and Invoicing

Our policy of taking payment at the time of treatment helps us to keep our charges low. In any event where we do not take payment at the time, we require payment within 14 days of invoicing. Invoices will now be sent out twice per month rather than just at the end of each month. We have made it as easy as possible for you to pay by accepting online payment through our website, electronic bank transfer and payment over the phone by credit or debit card as well as accepting cheques and cash.

### Training Courses

We are committed to keeping our vets up to date with the latest developments and techniques and as part of this commitment, all our vets are attending training courses this spring. Adam recently went on an **Equine Dentistry** course in Berkshire and he will attend a **Pre-Purchase Examination** course in April. Sarah and Juliette attended a **Laminitis** course at Leahurst last week. Juliette attended a course on **Ultrasonography** in February and is booked on an Equine Diseases in April. David will be visiting Leahurst in April for a **Foal Medicine** day and another course on **Accountability in Practice**. Sarah is continuing study for her Modular Certificate in Equine Practice.

## Increase in Respiratory Infections



We usually see a rise in the number of horses suffering from coughs, snotty noses and high temperatures over the winter months but we have seen an exceptional number of cases this winter, including some Strangles and Equine Herpes Virus (EHV) cases.

An equine respiratory disease diagnostic service - RespCheck - launched two years ago is proving its worth. Pioneered by Intervet / Schering-Plough Animal Health and implemented by the Animal Health Trust (AHT), RespCheck helps quickly and conveniently identify the cause of infectious respiratory problems with minimal expense to the owner. The service can swab for a range of diseases.

You can help to protect your horse by making sure he is up to date with vaccinations against influenza. And consider vaccination against EHV, a common respiratory infection which can also cause abortion in pregnant mares. Practice good biosecurity and stable hygiene by minimizing contact with other horses and avoiding transfer of infection on stable utensils, buckets etc.

## New "Emergency Fund" Payment Scheme

We are regularly faced with call outs to unexpected injuries and accidents to our clients' horses. Because these events cannot be predicted, people often do not have the funds ready to cover treatment costs, making an already upsetting situation even more stressful. We strongly recommend insurance to cover veterinary fees but we realise this is not possible in all cases and even covering the insurance excess can sometimes be a stretch.



We now have a scheme aiming to take away financial concerns should your horse become injured or sick. You can set up a standing order to make a regular payments to us to build up a fund which can be used should the need arise. The fund is not intended to replace insurance but it can be used to cover your insurance excess or for any minor problems which would not be worth claiming for on insurance. Please see our website or call us to ask for the information sheet with all the terms and conditions.

## Geriatric Horse Survey Results

A research project conducted by Liverpool University has been assessing the health and welfare of horses over 15 years in North West England. As our clients who have participated will know, the survey consisted of a questionnaire and a clinical examination and health assessment of the horses and ponies taking part.

The survey revealed a wide range of health problems in older horses including dental problems it showed that older horses receive fewer routine veterinary and farrier visits and are less likely to be vaccinated against flu and tetanus.

Dr Pinchbeck who led the project commented that "The owners involved in the study obviously cared about the welfare of their horses but weren't always aware of the specific needs of geriatric horses"

If you own an older horse, one of the best ways to take care of their preventive healthcare is to register them on one of our health plans so they will receive regular health checks and the vaccinations, dental care and worming they require. To promote health plans for older horses, we have a special offer of a free blood test for horses over 15 years old if you register on our Gold Health Plan before the end of May. The blood test is used to check the function of organs and identify any age related problems which could become more significant in the future.

