

Is My Horse at Risk from Bird Flu?

With the recent outbreak of avian influenza in the UK, there have been some concerns over whether there is any risk of transmission of the disease to horses. It appears from what we currently know that the risk is extremely small; firstly because direct and prolonged contact between horses and birds is minimal and secondly because of differences in immunity. However, a new equine influenza was discovered in China in 1989 which had originated from birds so this shows that cross species infection is not impossible.

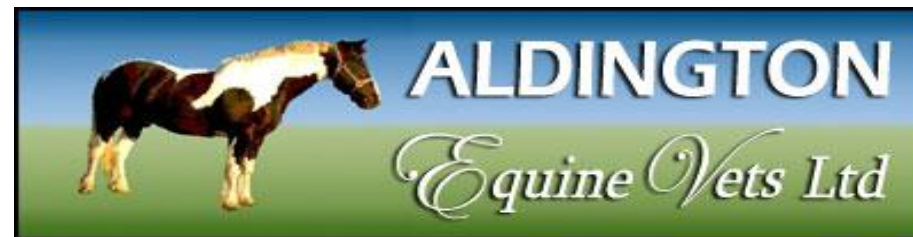
Passports Update

Updated veterinary medicines legislation has resulted in a new "Essential Medicines List" which means that we can now administer many more medicines to horses where the passport has NOT been signed to say they are not intended for human consumption. The medicines must be recorded in the passport. Please remember to take your horse's passport to show to the vet whenever any medicines are given to your horse.

Half Price Visit Dates April to June 2007

APRIL	MAY	JUNE	Area	Postcode of Stables
2nd	7th	4 th	Darwen, Tockholes, Hoddlesden	BB3,
4 th & 20 th	2 nd & 18 th	6 th & 15 th	Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Huncoat	BB5
16 th	21 st	18 th	Ribble Valley West (Mellor, Clayton le Dale)	BB2
27 th	25 th	29 th	Ribble Valley East (Clitheroe, and Gisburn)	BB7
11 th & 23 rd	9 th & 29 th	13 th & 25 th	Burnley, Brierfield, Barrowford, Briercliffe,	BB9, BB10, BB11, BB12
10 th	8 th	12 th	Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Waterfoot, Rossendale	BB4
5 th	4 th	1 st	Great Harwood, Rishton, Clayton-le-Moors, Blackburn	BB6, BB1
13 th	11 th	8 th	East Preston	PR3

Please note: The reduced charge applies to visits between 9am and 4pm which have been booked at least 2 days in advance. Visits will be arranged on a first come first served basis and some dates may be booked up well in advance.



*The Only Veterinary Practice in Lancashire
Dedicated Entirely to Horses*



Horse Owners' Meeting

Our annual client meeting is on Wednesday 21st March at Clarion Foxfields Hotel near Billington. The event is once again in conjunction with Whalley Corn Mills and this year's subject is the Older Horse. Everyone is welcome and a supper will be provided. An Invitation is enclosed.



Spring Open Day

We are holding an open day at our Martholme surgery on Sunday 29th April from 11am until 1pm. There will be tours of our premises, displays and short talks on common health problems from the vets and a farrier and physiotherapist. Light refreshments will be available. The event is taking place just before the Breeders' Day and stallion presentation at Holden Fold Stud (see later for details) so anyone interested in breeding can go from our surgery and on to Holden Fold

Tel 01254 888600

www.equine-vet.co.uk

Practice News

Wedding Bells

Congratulations to Melissa who recently became engaged to her long standing boyfriend James, a vet in County Durham. They are planning to get married this October.

New Flu Vaccine – Equilis Prequenza

We have changed to a new flu vaccine. Equilis Prequenza has just been launched and is a state of the art vaccine manufactured in a new way to minimise adverse reactions and offer excellent protection. Our prices for vaccinations are unchanged.

Artificial Insemination Course

The practice is heavily involved in artificial insemination and we are registered with the British Equine Veterinary Association as a practice skilled in A.I using frozen and chilled semen. Sarah attended a course in February to keep abreast of the latest techniques and methods.

Chronic Diseases Course

Melissa will soon be attending a course in Warwickshire on the investigation and management of chronic diseases. The two day course covers a wide range of conditions including laminitis, skin diseases, colic, weight loss and arthritis.

Premium & Economy Visits

Our three month trial offering a choice of visits has worked well and we plan to continue giving you the option of a Premium visit at a specified time to suit you or a cheaper Economy visit when we will call you half an hour before we arrive.

Horse Nation Magazine

David has written articles for a new national equestrian magazine called Horse Nation. The March issue contains articles on Mud Rash and Preparing Your Mare for Breeding.

Embryo Transfer Course

David attended a 2 day course on embryo transfer techniques in Shropshire at the end of February. We will be offering embryo transfer as an additional breeding service this year. Please call us for prices and details.

DEFRA U-turn on Microchipping Legislation

DEFRA have decided to overturn the proposed legislation requiring all foals to be microchipped from 2007. It is possible that it may still become a requirement at some time in the future.

Even though it is not compulsory, we still recommend microchipping as the best means of permanent identification of horses.

Case Report – Laminitis



Callum is a Welsh Sec D gelding. He contracted laminitis in December 2005 following a change from hay to haylage. The symptoms came on rapidly and were very severe. He was box rested on a deep bed with supports applied under his frogs but despite this, X-rays taken a few days later showed that the pedal bones in both his front feet had sunk down as the laminae had separated.

This was aggravated by Callum's weight so steel heart bar shoes were applied to all four feet to offer maximum support and he was encouraged to lie down as much as possible. The initial response was promising but then he suddenly became very lame in one front leg and was spending most of the day lying down. The lameness was traced to fluid and infection which had built up where the laminae had become damaged and separated so a dorsal wall resection was performed to remove part of the front hoof wall and allow the fluid out. He was kept on potent analgesics to minimise his pain and his foot was poulticed twice daily.

Callum gradually improved and as new hoof horn has grown down his feet have become more stable. He was allowed out in the sand paddock from April and he has continued to make a gradual improvement so he is now off all medication and is being ridden again gently. He is still shod with heart bar shoes on his front feet.

Callum's case highlights how quickly and unexpectedly laminitis can strike and how serious it can be. He is very lucky to have made a good recovery and without the careful management from his owner and lots of attention from his farrier and our vets he may not have been here now.

Profile of our Services

In each of our future newsletters we intend to give an insight into some of the services we offer. This Spring's subject is...

A.I, Embryo Transfer and Breeding Services



Aldington Equine Vets is developing a reputation as one of the leading practices in Lancashire for A.I. and stud work. David Aldington has a special interest in equine stud medicine and much of his time from March to July is spent scanning and dealing with the increasing demand for A.I.

The practice is listed with the British Equine Veterinary Association as an approved centre for A.I. using both frozen and chilled semen.

All three vets have attended multiple training courses in scanning, stud medicine and A.I. In addition, David has recently attended a two day course on Embryo Transfer techniques and we are now able to offer this pioneering service which can allow mares to breed more than one foal per year or to carry on competing while still breeding a foal.

The practice had a successful year in 2006 with good A.I conception rates. Most mares we accept for A.I are taken to Holden Fold Stud near Darwen but we are also able to carry out A.I. using chilled semen at your premises if you prefer and this can take away any concerns you may have about taking your mare to stud and leaving her there for an unknown period of time.

We have reduced our fees for scanning for 2007 and discounts are available for anyone having mares scanned on a regular basis. You are welcome to bring mares to our Martholme surgery or to Holden Fold Stud by appointment for scanning.

If you are considering breeding from your mare this year, please call us and speak to David with any questions or to discuss the most appropriate arrangements for A.I. or E.T. Remember that your mare will need swabbing and in most cases blood sampling for EVA at least 8 days before going to stud and it is advisable to have her scanned before breeding to make sure she is free of infection and is cycling normally.

New Stud in Ribchester

Higher Boyce Farm Stud has a choice of two stallions:



Herith Travelling On

- > 15.2hh Homozygous Coloured Stallion By Samthan
- > Guarantees a coloured foal to any mare.
- > Shown at county level with many championships to his name



Saint Malo

- > Dual purpose blood lines.
- > 16.3hh Hanoverian by Salieri
- > Graded and 100 day tested with BHHS
- > Excellent performance test results.

Call Margaret Embery on 07870 665101 for more details

Breeders Day at Holden Fold Stud

To coincide with our open day on 29th April, Holden Fold Dressage and Stud at Tockholes near Darwen are holding a Breeders' Day from 1pm. There will be a parade of their sport horse stallions and a selection of their progeny **as well as a selection of horses for sale, from foals to full grown under saddle on behalf of local producers.** Along with a tour of the premises and barbeque. The event is not to be missed by anyone interested in breeding sport horses. All welcome. Call Brian Crane on 07984 819792 for more details

Antibody Testing for Newborn Foals

If your mare is due to foal this spring, we are available 24 hours a day for emergencies or advice. Our information sheet on foaling is available via our website or from our surgery. In order for foals to have protection against tetanus, the mare should receive a booster vaccination around one month before she is due to foal.

We recommend a blood sample from newborn foals at 12 – 24 hours old to check antibody levels. It is vitally important that all foals receive adequate antibodies from the colostrum in the first few hours of life otherwise they are left open to infection and have a significant chance of developing septicaemia which is often fatal. Early detection of this can make the difference between life and death!

