

Strangles Vaccine Available Again Soon

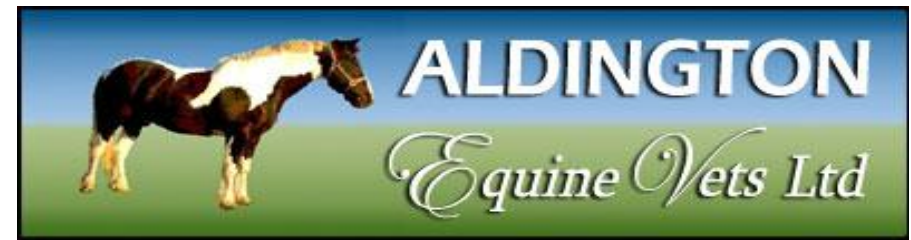


As many of you will be aware, the strangles vaccine (Equilis Strep-E) has been unavailable for over 12 months. We have been informed by the manufacturers that it should be available again this spring and that owners of any horses which were covered by the vaccination at the time it was withdrawn from the market will be compensated so that no additional costs are involved in re-starting with vaccinations.

We have seen several cases of strangles within the practice area recently so vaccination is strongly recommended for at risk horses.

More details should be available at our Horse Owners' Meeting on 10th April.

If your horse was vaccinated for strangles previously, we will write to let you know as soon as the vaccine becomes available again.



Half Price Visit Dates Apr - Jun

April 2008	May 2008	June 2008	Area	Postcode of Stables
15 th	13 th	17 th	Darwen, Tockholes, Hoddlesden	BB3,
4 th & 21 st	9 th & 23 rd	6 th & 23 rd	Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Huncoat	BB5
23 rd	21 st	18 th	Ribble Valley West (Mellor, Clayton le Dale)	BB2
9 th	14 th	11 th	Ribble Valley East (Clitheroe, and Gisburn)	BB7
10 th & 25 th	8 th & 22 nd	5 th & 26 th	Burnley, Brierfield, Barrowford, Briercliffe,	BB9, BB10, BB11, BB12
17 th	15 th	19 th	Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Waterfoot, Rossendale	BB4
1 st	6 th	3 rd	Great Harwood, Rishton, Clayton-le-Moors, Blackburn	BB6, BB1
16 th	7 th	12 th	East Preston	PR3
22 nd	20 th	24 th	Ramsbottom, Edenfield, Bury and Rochdale	BL0, BL9 / 8 OL11/13

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.

Horse Owners' Meeting 10th April

Our annual meeting in conjunction with Whalley Corn Mills will be held on Thursday 10th April at Foxfields Hotel, just off the A59 near Billington.

This years topics are:

"How to Protect your Horse against Flu, Strangles and Herpes Virus." by Robert Ankcorn of Intervet

And

"Feeding for the Correct Condition" by Teresa Hollands of Dodson & Horrell Feeds

There will be trade stands present and brief talks about what's new for 2008 in equestrian clothing, supplements and feeding.

A hot pot supper will be provided. Entry is free and everyone is invited. Please let us know if you would like to come (Via our website or by calling our office on 01254 888600.)

Pay Your Account via our Website

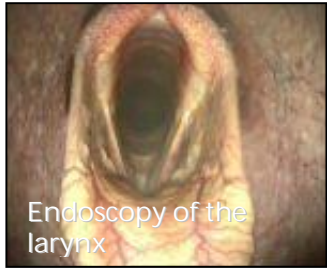
We are now able to take secure credit / debit card payments on our website. Just visit www.equine-vet.co.uk and follow the link

Tel 01254 888600

www.equine-vet.co.uk

Practice News

New Video Endoscope



We have recently purchased an endoscope with video capability so that everyone present and not just the vet can see the images. The technology allows us to record video footage which can be stored or sent to specialists for an expert opinion if required. The endoscope can be used for examination of the nasal passages, throat, windpipe, oesophagus and uterus in mares.

Sarah Returns in May

Our vet Sarah Heathcote and her new baby Edward are doing well and we look forward to Sarah re-starting at the practice in the middle of May.
Training Courses

Juliette recently attended a course on A.I techniques and semen assessment at London. We are expecting a busy 2008 stud season with an ever increasing amount of A.I work. We are recognised by the British Equine Veterinary Association as a practice experienced in the use of frozen and chilled semen A.I for 2008.

Reducing The Risk of Laminitis

When the spring grass starts growing there is an increased risk of laminitis and careful monitoring of your horse's weight becomes vital. Using a weigh tape once every fortnight is recommended.

It is possible to take a blood sample to find out how prone your horse is to the disease so special precautions can be taken if required.

If you would like to know more about the blood test, need advice on feeding or if you need a weigh tape, call our office or come along to our meeting on 10th April

Horses For Sale

If you are selling your horse this spring, you are free to advertise on our notice board at the practice surgery. Please either e-mail or bring in a small (A5 size or less) advert including a picture.

If you are looking for a horse to buy it may be worth your while to call in, check our noticeboard and pick up a copy of our information sheet on Pre-Purchase Examinations. Having the horse examined by a vet before purchase could save you money and heartache. Insurance companies are now insisting on 5-stage examinations more often before they will provide insurance cover, so it is worth checking what is required before buying.

First Foal of 2008



In the middle of January, David was called out in the early hours of the morning because a client's mare, Daytona, had just foaled and was refusing to allow her foal to suckle. Luckily, her owner understood the importance of ensuring his foal received adequate colostrum within the first few hours of life. The mare was milked out and the foal given colostrum via stomach tube. Thankfully, mare and foal are now well bonded and doing fine.

If your mare is due to foal this year and you need help or advice, you can order our foaling factsheet via our website or call to speak to a vet. We recommend all mares receive a tetanus booster and check up one month before their due foaling date.

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!

Sponsored Ride

One of more intrepid clients, Estelle Mathieson, will be completing a sponsored ride on her four year old warmblood cross, Matty, along with three of her old work colleagues from the GMP mounted section. They are setting out on 16th June for a three day trek over the Pennine moors to complete the 48 mile Mary Towneley Loop.



Estelle sadly lost her husband Garry in 2005 and is determined to raise as much as possible for East Lancs Hospice who supported and cared for him so well.

You can find out more and offer sponsorship at www.justgiving.com/estellemathieson or add your name to the sponsorship form when you next visit our surgery