



Hello and welcome to the Autumn DVEP newsletter. How can it be Autumn already? I must have nodded off while Summer was here and then woken up to find the leaves turning brown. But with the planet tumbling through space at 67,000mph, Autumn was bound to arrive sooner rather than later.

So the big news of the season is that the cameras are back at Bush! STV are filming another series of The Vet School and the Beechgrove Garden team were here in September planting for a few days perhaps you caught the episode as it was broadcast 22nd September on BBC1.

We have a new staff member (see below) and we have arranged another of our definitely legendary client evenings. This time it's 'Infectious' with everyone welcome- see below.

The building work also continues at Easter Bush. At one point the builders had dug so many holes and trenches that I expected to see Tony Robinson from 'Time Team' pop up with some Roman remains! But seriously, we would like to apologise for the inconvenience these works may be causing you. It will be worth it in the end.

Anyway I hope you enjoy this newsletter and as ever if you would like to read the others or any of our useful fact sheets then pop over to www.dickvetequine.com and follow the link to the practice.

Finally I would like to leave you with the thought that in the time it has taken you to read this introduction we are now 5625 miles closer to Christmas!

Matt Hanks - Editor

New Staff Members!

With one of our vets off sick we have a new equine vet at DVEP! His name is Paudie O'Reilly and yes, he is from Ireland!



Before coming to us Paudie worked at the highly regarded Arundel Equine Hospital. Paudie will be here for the next month or so, leaving us at the end of November.



With Kirstie Pickles leaving us to head over to the USA, we have another new vet to take her place and her name is Gemma Pearson. Gemma graduated from Glasgow Vet School and has been working in

England at the Ledston Equine Clinic for the last year. Her interests are riding, equine behaviour and equine medicine. We hope she settles in quickly and you lot don't tease her about her Leeds accent!

The Cameras are back!!

After the success of the first series of 'The Vet School', STV are back at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies for the next few weeks, filming.

We generally try and let any owners know that we may be filming but if you would rather we didn't then please just let us know.



CLIENT EVENING ON NOVEMBER 3rd at 7pm.

As so many of you have said that you have enjoyed our client evenings, we thought another was in order!

This time we will have an infectious disease theme.

We will have nibbles at 7pm and promise to let you get off home by 9pm.

If you would like to reserve a place then give us a Ali or Trish a call on 0131 445 4468



What's in this month's newsletter:

1. News & comment
2. Client Evening!
3. Mud fever
4. CT Scans for horses

Practice Staff

Veterinary Surgeons:

Kirstie Pickles BVMS Cert EIM, MSc PhD, Dip ECEIM MRCVS

Jenny Clements BVSc MSc Cert EIM MRCVS

Matt Hanks BVSc MRCVS

Malcolm Corsar BVM&S MRCVS

Paudie O'Reilly MRCVS

Front Office Staff

Alison Smith

Trish O'Donnell

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday: 9-5pm

During these times phone:

0131 445 4468

After hours phone:

07699 748010



The Dick Vet Equine Practice is a Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons accredited Practice.



Insurance Update

Following the annual meeting between British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) and the Equine Insurers Forum (EIF) in May 2010 some points were raised and some trends noted that are of interest to BEVA members. These include the following:

1. **Multi-limb lameness.** Increasing numbers of insurance companies are moving away from paying out separate claims if a horse is diagnosed with a multi-limb lameness at one investigation. Instead of paying for each area of pain, insurance claims will be treated as one insurance incident for diagnosis and treatment purposes. BEVA recommend that members advise clients to check with insurance companies that they will pay for separate claims in horses in which multi-limb lameness is diagnosed prior to expensive treatments being commenced.
2. **Clinical records.** If an Insurer requests to have access to the clinical record of the horse then this should only relate to the current ownership of the horse

“The Winner’s Enclosure” Blg Win at HOYS!!

We would like to give our sincere congratulations to **Alex and Caroline Brewster** on winning Champion Working Hunter Pony at this years Horse of the Year Show with **Freckleton Maximus!** Caroline rode brilliantly to claim the crown amongst some very stiff competition. Caroline and Freckleton Maximus were also class winners at HOYS in 2008.



Caroline and Freckleton Maximus on their way to a winning round

If you have had success, no matter how big or small, or achieved something you are proud of on your horse then let us by sending some information and a picture to matt.hanks@ed.ac.uk

Vets to monitor cases of intestinal parasite-related disease

The British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) initiative is asking their members to record cases of intestinal parasite-related disease seen in equine practice. BEVA Council member Dr Tim Brazil explains: "This new initiative is designed to help us better understand intestinal-parasite related diseases in horses, ponies and donkeys. Our knowledge of the extent of internal parasitic conditions seen in equine practice across the UK is limited, so we need to know more!"

Although many horse owners and managers seek advice from trained professionals in different industry sectors on anthelmintic ("wormer") usage, confusion can arise as to the most appropriate strategies for control of intestinal worms.

Some veterinary practices are now using worming programmes, worm egg counts and health plan initiatives to help guide clients toward sound scientific and sustainable worming programmes. However better information as to what disease problems we are facing and the scale of worm-related diseases can only help us to better support horse owners.



"The results from this initial 12 month project will hopefully form part of an equine health programme to help members educate clients on the dangers of worms, and how to avoid them. In the longer term we hope to expand this project into a more detailed practice-based evidence-based medicine research study," adds Dr Brazil.

For the initial phase, BEVA is asking members in UK practices to complete a simple questionnaire on any cases of intestinal parasite-related disease that they diagnose.



Mud fever is a common skin infection of the lower limbs of horses and is principally caused by the bacterium *Dermatophilus congolensis*. It usually occurs in winter in horses that are exposed to muddy or wet conditions, which compromise the integrity of the skin and allow infection to take hold. The same condition can affect the back of the horse, where it is referred to as “rain scald”. Non-pigmented skin is often more severely affected although mud fever can affect horses of all colours.

Examination of an affected horse reveals exudation, scabs and matted hair (Figure 1). The condition can be painful with marked reddening of the surrounding skin and swelling of the limb. In severe cases, mud fever can make the horse lame.



Fig 1. Exudation, matting and scabs in a case of mud fever.

Mud fever can usually be diagnosed on clinical signs alone. Treatment of the condition involves keeping the horse out of the mud and removal of the exudates and scabs (Figure 2.). This may require clipping of the hair and soaking the skin in an antibacterial solution (dilute hibiscrub for example), followed by thorough drying. In mild cases, the owner may be able to manage without veterinary intervention. However, this procedure will take some time as you need to gently tease off the scabs, otherwise the skin will bleed. Additionally it may be necessary to have your horse sedated as the condition can be painful. A number of cases will also require topical creams or systemic antibiotic and anti-inflammatory medications to be prescribed by your veterinary surgeon. Bandaging is often detrimental as it can create a moist environment.



Figure 2. The scabs have been removed from the horse shown in figure 1.

Prevention is always better than cure. Paddock management by means of paddock rotation or use of electric fencing may prevent horses congregating in the deep mud around gateways. The thick winter coat on the limbs can mask the onset of the condition so regular grooming and palpation of your horse's legs can detect the formation of scabs. Some horse owners find the use of barrier creams (emollients) helpful in prevention of mud fever. However, if these are applied onto moist skin, an environment where bacteria thrive can be created. Some owners wash the mud off their horse when they come in at night but again this can moisten the skin further. Any potential benefits of these protocols need to be considered on a case by case basis. In general, regular grooming and care should detect mud fever and if veterinary advice is sought early, the condition can be readily treated.

If you have any queries regarding “mud fever” or “rain scald”, call the practice on 0131 445 4468 and ask to speak to one of the vets



CT Scanner at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies soon to be open for horses!

Our advanced CT (computer tomography) scanner at the Easter Bush Veterinary Centre is going to be adapted for use in horses. Although mainly used for diagnosing conditions in cats and dogs, a customised table will be installed which will allow horses and ponies to be scanned. A CT scan gives cross-sectional images of bony and soft tissue structures. Our scanner is state-of-the-art so the image quality is very high. Cross-sectional images ("slices") give much more information about regions with complicated anatomy, such as joints and especially the equine head, which has many superimposed tooth roots and sinuses. On x-ray all these structures lie over each other and it can be difficult to work out exactly where a problem is located and plan the best surgical approach. Our customised table will allow horses to have their heads scanned while they are standing, using only sedation. We will also be able to scan the lower limbs, but for these examinations the horse will have to be lying on its side and will therefore be anaesthetised.



The CT scanner at the Easter Bush Veterinary Centre showing how a horse would stand while having its head examined. The table the horse is standing on literally floats on air making the horse and table move as if they were weightless!

To help us offer this incredible new system the BHS and Zara's Planet Amazing Horse Riding Adventures are raising funds by undertaking a sponsored ride across Africa! Loraine Young, Chairman of BHS Scotland says, "We know from experience that the equestrian fraternity will go to huge lengths to improve the lives of Scotland's horses. That is why we are teaming up with the Dick Vet and Zara's Planet in this extraordinary fund raising effort for a scanning table."

For more information email bhsscotland@bhs.org.uk or phone 01764 656334



CT scan of a foal's carpus ("knee"), showing a displaced fragment (arrow) off the back of one of the carpal bones - this fragment could not be seen on x-ray.

Normal opening hours are:

Monday to Friday 9am-5pm

During these times please phone:

0131 445 4468

At all other times please phone:

07699 748010

If you call during after hours, you will be asked for 'your message'. Please give your name, contact details and the nature of the problem. This information will be passed to the duty

