



# Dick Vet Equine Practice Newsletter - *AUTUMN 2009*

Ok, so the weather has been a little wet and there has been flooding up north, but would you really want to live anywhere else but Edinburgh? Answers on a postcard please!

Regardless of the weather we are going to make October and November great months for your horse! With the client evening on the 8th of October (see below) we are introducing a great new service - Health Plans for your horse! See later in this newsletter and/or come along to the client evening, where our vet Malcolm Corsar will be explaining all.

Jenny Swain will be back at the end of November after having her lovely little girl, Sian. But its not all good news. With Jenny's return we have to say goodbye to our 'Aussie' locum vet, Chris. He has been a tremendous help over the last few months and we will be really sorry to see him go. Chris is going to spend a little bit of time travelling and working around the country before he heads home. Good on ya mate and thanks for all your efforts.

## Recommend a Friend and get 50% off your next visit!!!

If you know someone looking to have their horses' health looked after by the professionals, then get them to give us a call, mention your name and you will get 50% off your next visit fee! Its as easy as that!

*This offer runs until 1st January 2010. Only applies to routine visit fees. After-hours visit fees are not included in this offer*

**CLIENT EVENING - 8th October - Call now to to reserve your  
place on 0131-4454468!!**

***The speakers are Matt Hanks and Malcolm Corsar talking  
about 'Infection' and 'Health Plans' respectively. The talk starts  
at 7pm at the Dick Vet Equine Practice at Easter Bush and will  
be a very informative and enjoyable night!***

## Free referral fees to Dick Vet Equine Hospital!



Not content in offering you reduced referral fees for emergency referrals to our hospital, we can now offer you FREE referral consultation fees for routine referrals during the day! So if your horse is in need of specialist care it is now cheaper than ever!

What's in this months news-  
letter:

1. News
2. Recommend a Friend
3. West Nile Virus
4. Health Plans

## Microchip Offer

We are still offering our 10% off microchip deal! With all horses and foals that require a passport needing to be chipped now is the time to do it. The offer ends 31st December 2009, so make a booking now on 0131 445 4468.

## Faecal Worm Egg Counts

In house egg counting is available at a cost of just £7.50 inc VAT. Just drop off a fresh sample of your horses dung with your name and we will do the rest.



## West Nile Virus - coming ready or not?

With the discovery of Bluetongue virus in a small number UK cattle last year, global warming took a very sinister turn.

Bluetongue is a disease that affects sheep, cattle, goats and camelids.

The virus is spread ONLY by particular species of *Culicoides* midge (see left). The virus infects the midge and waits in the salivary glands ready to infect another ruminant (or camelid).

The virus cannot be spread from animal to animal without midges. Thankfully the virus does not yet like our famous Scottish midge, but with our weather slowly becoming warmer (the 2007-2008 winter was the mildest on record) our Scottish midge may well get company! Even as you read this, vets in the south are bracing

themselves for a possible Bluetongue outbreak because the virus (and its associated midge) are buzzing around Northern France and with warm winds from France the French midge could get blown our way! But what has this got to do with our beloved horses? Well another virus with a similar life cycle, called West Nile Virus, is causing big headaches in Italy.

West Nile Virus (or WNV as it is known), is a virus that is also transmitted by biting insects. Namely the *Culex*, *Aedes* and *Anopheles* species of biting mosquitoes (see right). The disease mainly affects birds but also affects horses, dogs, cats, rabbits, bats and humans! The virus can cause either flu-like symptoms or encephalitis (brain inflammation) with can be fatal. There is some evidence to suggest that horses are very susceptible to the disease.

The life cycle of the virus MUST include one of the biting mosquitoes already mentioned. The virus CANNOT be passed from one animal to another like Strangles or Influenza and nor can the disease be spread by 'Cleggs' or midges.

Now, the important thing to remember is that the biting mosquitoes required to spread the disease are apparently NOT found in the UK. Phew! But (and there is always a but!) some non-migratory birds in this country have been found to have antibodies to WNV suggesting that the virus is here.

So what do you do? Well at the moment all is well in the UK and no clinical cases of WNV have been found in any animals. But keep your eyes peeled for any news. Finally there is a vaccination that can prevent your horse getting the disease if WNV ever comes to the UK. But if you are taking your horse to Italy (or indeed overseas) give us a call to see if a vaccination is required.



*Culicoides spp*



*Culex spp*



*Anopheles spp*



*Aedes spp*

### Horse Diary October

#### SNEC

- 02/10/2009 - BHS Stage 1 & 2
- 03/10/2009 - Dalkeith & District Pony Club
- 04/10/2009 - Vaulting
- 07/10/2009 - Showjumping Schooling Night
- 08/10/2009 - 11/10/2009 - Blue Chip Festival Association Winter Show
- 12/10/2009 - Andrew Hamilton Training Clinic
- 14/10/2009 - Showjumping Schooling Night
- 15/10/2009 - 18/10/2009 - McGard Scottish Masters
- 19/10/2009 - Linda Lucey Training Clinic
- 21/10/2009 - Showjumping Schooling Night
- 23/10/2009 - L & S Pony Club
- 24/10/2009 - Scottish & Northern Dressage Championships
- 26/10/2009 - David Gatherer Training Clinic

#### Gleneagles

- 05/10/09 - BHS Equine Specific First Aid Course - Refresher
- 6-7/10/09 - BHS Equine Specific First Aid Course - Refresher
- 11/10/09 - Gleneagles Autumn Hunter Trial inc. Knockhill Horse Power & BHS Scotland Hunter Trial Championships
- 19/10/09 - David Gatherer XC Training Clinic
- 30/10/09 - William Fox-Pitt Masterclass

This information is intended as a guide only - please contact venue for more information

## Health Plans for your Horse

At the Dick Vet Equine Practice we are constantly looking for ways in which we can improve and maintain the health and welfare of your horse. We also want to develop a strong working relationship with both you and your horse, in order to provide your horse with the best possible veterinary care available.

One way we have thought we can do this is by introducing preventative health care plans, which work on the principle that “prevention is better than cure”. This form of preventative health care is referred to as “Health Planning”, which many of you may have read about in the equine media.

Only the most proactive equine practices, such as the Dick Vet Equine Practice, are offering health planning as one of their many services. We hope that this will allow us to have a more detailed knowledge of your horses’ health requirements, allowing us to service both you and your horses’ needs more efficiently.

The equine health planning scheme is entirely voluntary, and those of you that do sign up to the scheme will not only benefit from increased veterinary input towards the care of your horse, but also financially through the discount schemes which we intend to offer as part of the health plan.

The Dick Vet Equine Practice Health Plan Scheme will provide you with:

- An **annual visit** - includes a full and detailed clinical examination of your horse, where we will examine your horse from nose to tail (including a trot up), examine your horse’s stabling and environment, and discuss our findings and any particular areas of concern which you may have regarding your horse’s health and general well being.
- A typed **health plan**, specific to your horse will then be produced for you, detailing all aspects pertinent to the care of your horse, providing you with customised “ready to hand” veterinary guidelines and advice to maximise the health and wellbeing of your horse. A copy of this health plan will be retained at the practice for our reference.
- **Annual review** of the health plan, to help safeguard your horse’s health and wellbeing.
- **Discounted** vaccinations, and advice on what the best vaccinations are for your horse, helping to maximise immunity specific for your horses’ needs.
- **Free** worm egg counts, worming advice and the provision of the most appropriate wormer for your horse to help prevent costly, unnecessary over worming and also help protect against harmful worms becoming resistant to wormers.
- **Discounted** dental examination and tooth rasping, providing you with a record of your horses’ dental care.
- The ease of monthly direct debit payments rather than costly lump sum bills if you prefer.

These discounted services will only be available as part of the health scheme.

The total all inclusive cost of the health scheme will be £120 (+VAT) per annum, which you can either arrange to pay as a monthly direct debit or as a one off payment each year.

Although the health plan will help prevent against many common conditions and diseases which may affect your horse, it will not include the cost of an emergency visit, should one be required.





However, the theory is that health planning, which will allow for more routine veterinary involvement, will help to prevent some of these distressing emergency situations from arising, hopefully meaning a happy healthy horse.



Should you be interested in the benefits that health planning has to offer both you and your horse, give us a call at the practice at a time convenient to you to discuss arranging a visit and detailed clinical exam of your horse so that we can provide you with the health plan, and enrol you on the most proactive equine veterinary health scheme in the Lothians.

As well as providing tailored health plans for the individual, we also intend to offer livery yard owners a similar, but more generalised health plan over and above the health plans which the individual horses in livery would have.

This would involve discounts for planned routine work, such as group vaccinations and group dentistry.

We also include:

- A quarterly seasonal visit to the yard (Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter) to discuss the health problems and conditions which are common during these seasons, thus helping to improve horse welfare on the yard and prevent costly problems from occurring.
- Quarterly advice posters with standard operating procedures, detailing common seasonal problems.
- Advice on biosecurity and how to deal with new arrivals and prevent them from spreading disease.

If you are interested in the Livery Yard Scheme then give us a call for pricing. The payment can also be paid by direct debit.

This is a great new scheme that has so many benefits. Give us a call on 0131 445 4468 to find out more

## Have you called about our client evening yet?

Normal opening hours are:

Monday to Friday 8.30am-5pm

During these times please phone:

**0131 445 4468**

At all other times please phone:

**01223 849 835**

If you call during after hours, you will be asked for your name, contact details and the nature of the problem.

This information will be passed to the duty vet who will contact you directly.

