

The clinic continues to be very busy here at Alnorthumbria with lameness and medicine cases.

### **Nose bleeds in horses**

Horses, like humans, can have nosebleeds for many reasons. When a horse presents with a nosebleed the important questions that we will ask you will be; how much blood is visible, is the blood coming from both nostrils or just one, is the blood associated with work and is there any evidence of external trauma?

The answers to these questions will help us to narrow down the source of the bleed. Bleeding can arise from the nasal cavity itself, the sinuses or the lungs. Most nosebleeds are self-limiting and result in small volumes of blood, often from one nostril and are the result of trauma. There may be evidence of this in the form of swelling or a wound. In these cases radiographs of the head may be beneficial in identifying damage to the bones that surround the nasal cavity and sinuses.

Larger volumes of blood are usually associated with a condition called exercise induced pulmonary haemorrhage (EIPH), where fresh blood will be seen from both nostrils after athletic work. This is due to small blood vessels within the lungs bursting when the horse is working at maximal capacity.

An unusual cause of a significant nosebleed is as a result of fungal infection within the guttural pouches within the head, guttural pouch mycosis. This is a potentially life-threatening condition where a fungal infection erodes vessel walls in this location, resulting in significant blood loss from the nose. Visualisation of the nasal region with a small camera (endoscope) will diagnose this condition. Occasionally, growths within the nasal cavity and sinus region can result in nosebleeds. An ethmoid haematoma is such an example, and often presents as a mixed nasal discharge of blood and pus. X-rays of the head and endoscopy are both useful for diagnosis.

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### **Have you checked for Ragwort and buttercups?**

As we approach summer is it important to be extremely vigilant when checking your pastures for ragwort and buttercups. Ragwort is poisonous to horses and should be removed immediately (always wear gloves) if present. Ragwort damages the liver and can lead to irreversible damage, if not recognised early. Buttercups can also cause ulceration around the mouth and lips of horses and ponies and should also be managed if found.



### **What bio-security is in place on your yard?**

Every time a new horse enters a yard they bring with them the risk of several infectious diseases. Horses have the ability to bring a disease onto a yard without showing any clinical signs. Therefore, it is really important that you put together a protocol for new horses entering your yard. This should include isolating the horse, getting a worming history and vaccination history and ideally testing the horse for exposure to strangles disease.

At Alnorthumbria we have worked closely with MSD animal health and are able to offer free yard master meetings with yard owners to discuss how together we can improve biosecurity on their yard

## Practice news

- Vets Ed, Max and Euan were all on duty at Belsay horse trials this weekend. Well done to Laura de Wesselow and the whole team at Belsay for organising a super event. The inter hunt on Sunday afternoon provided a highly amusing end to the weekend.
- Grazing paddocks - If you have passed Fairmoor recently on the A1 you will have noticed our grazing paddocks in the field behind the clinic. This means we can now turn patients out who would benefit from being out at grass during the day, or who are not used to being stabled for long periods.
- Goncalo our in house medicine specialist will be attending the American Veterinary Medicine conference in Washington, USA later this month.
- Lesley attended a musculoskeletal ultrasound course at Rosssdales equine hospital in Newmarket. Speakers included lameness experts from the UK and abroad, including Roger Smith who has recently come to Alnorthumbria to give the whole team some training.
- Nurse Kate Rowntree is in training for the great north run in September, she recently ran a personal best in the Bamburgh 10k. Kate is raising money for MacMillan cancer support.



### **Congratulations to:**

Vet **Lesley Barwise-Munro** who recently competed in her first ever three day event at Tattersalls international horse trials in Ireland. Lesley put in a super clear round on a tough one star course and added just one show jump to her score on the final day.

Well done to all our clients competing at **Belsay Horse Trials**, especial to **Harry Mutch, Jess McKie** and **Philippa Nixon** who all had winners.

### **June Reminders:**

- If you have an overweight horse or pony now is a good time to start making plans to manage their weight during the summer. Grazing muzzles and small paddocks can be very useful in managing horses weight. You can also call the clinic to organise a yard weigh clinic on 01670 897 597.
- In order to comply with FEI regulations, flu vaccines should be administered within 6 months and 21 days of an FEI event but not within 7 days of competing.
- If you are thinking about putting your mare into foal now is a good time to start getting organised. We have a number of packages available that cover the cost of Chilled or Frozen artificial insemination.
- Worm egg counts should be done every three months throughout the summer. These can be dropped off at any of our practices and one of the equine vets will give you a call with the results the following day.

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