

### Racecourse training on Human and Equine entrapment organised by Lesley Barwise-Munro

There was an excellent attendance from Doctors, Vets, British Horseracing association officials, paramedics, fire brigade, horse ambulance drivers and racecourse staff. Morning lectures from world renowned speakers detailed techniques on handling and rescuing horses and humans in emergency situations. It was invaluable to learn safe techniques for controlling and moving horses involved in accidents. It was intriguing to learn the doctors priority when dealing with people trapped under horses, the techniques they use to extract them and when time is of the essence and when there is more time.

In the afternoon we were split into groups and in practical demonstrations on life size artificial horses we learnt techniques to move recumbent horses safely when jockeys are trapped underneath using just a few straps. The jockey was our own Libby Gallon (animal care assistance) . We also had a mock up of a race with several incidence occurring at once with jockeys injured next to or under injured horses. It was a great test of the resources available and included simulating anaesthetising a horses and removing it from the racetrack in an horse ambulance.

This was unique training for all involved and totally invaluable. Thank you to Lesley and Barbara Buglass who was heavily involved in organising the day. Also thank you to the sponsors who made this possible, **Newcastle Racing & Events, Lycetts and Equine Products UK Ltd**. We will all be more prepared to deal with a major racecourse incident.



**Well done to all our clients who have been competing successfully:**

**Including Ben Hobday and Harry Mutch for competing at Badminton and completing all phases including the daunting cross country phase.**

## LAMINITIS

We have seen an increase in the number of cases of laminitis over the last few weeks. Often owners have been caught out with horses and ponies not appearing particularly over weight. There has been very high sugar content in the grass following a sunny period. Not all cases have been very obvious at the outset, signs usually include foot sore or reluctance to move, increased digital pulses, warm feet. The front feet are usually more severely affected although all feet can be involved. It is incredibly painful condition with swelling of the laminae which hold pedal bone to the hoof wall. Treatment includes box rest, analgesia, frog supports. Radiographs can be very useful in the diagnosis and treatment plan. Please call us if you spot the signs,

The majority (>90%) of cases of grass associated laminitis have an underlying hormone disorder. PPID (or Cushing's disease) and equine metabolic syndrome (EMS) are the most common disorders. Without correcting the underlying cause it can be difficult to get these cases under control and there is a large increase risk of re-occurrence.

PPID is more common in equines over 12yrs and can usually be diagnosed with a simple blood sample, the cost of these tests are subsidised. PPID can be treated with daily tablets. With EMS the overweight horse has become insulin resistant. High levels of insulin are implicated in the development of laminitis. This is seen in overweight horses and ponies or those with abnormal fatty deposits. These animals are in a similar condition to type II diabetic people.

Prevention is better than cure. Restrict access to grass for overweight horses and ponies with electric fencing, grazing muzzles or reduced time at pasture. If you would like to organise a yard weigh clinic please call us on 01670 897 597.

## FARRIER TRAINING DAY

Fairmoor Equine Clinic was filled with farriers on Thursday attending a farriers training day with guest speakers Patrick Pollock equine surgeon and Wayne Preece FWCF.

Unfortunately Jim Ferrie was unable to attend due to illness. The day was arranged by Lesley Barwise-Munro. They had



lectures followed by demonstrations. It was a busy and very informative day and great to see so many of our local farriers furthering their knowledge and discussing their ideas.



## MAY REMINDERS

Many show centres along with British Eventing and FEI are asking for all horses to have had a **flu vaccine** within the last 6 months.

If you are considering **breeding** from your mare this year we have packages for pre-breeding checks, artificial insemination with either chilled or frozen semen. Please call to speak to Stephen Bradley, Kate Logan or Euan Hammersley.

**Faecal Worm egg counts** should be done every three months throughout the summer. Don't forget if you are a member of the **Horse Health Program** you get these included in your monthly fee of **£10.99 month (also including yearly flu and tetanus vaccination, dental including sedation, 10% off all other work and drugs, 20% off long term medicines).**

There is still time to get the **colts castrated** before the fly season at the discounted rate of **£125** including drugs \*conditions apply.