

Autumn Awareness of Acorns and Atypical Myopathy! November is a high risk period due to high winds

Acorn poisoning - Acorns and oak leaves can be toxic to horses. In small amounts acorns are harmless, especially when combined with the normal roughage of hay and grass. Acorn ingestion commonly presents with signs of colic, but may be as vague as lethargy or inappetance. Here are some tips on how to protect your horse from acorn poisoning:

- Fence off oak trees in your horse's paddock
- Move your horse to a paddock without oak trees during the autumn.
- Clear fallen oak branches or acorns from your paddocks regularly.
- If you notice your horse eating acorns don't panic, it's sensible to move them to an oak-free field and monitor them for signs of being unwell or colic.



If you are concerned at any point please speak to one of our equine vets who will be happy to offer advice.

Equine Atypical Myopathy

(EAM) is a relatively newly recognised disease and can be fatal in a large number of cases. It is caused by the toxin found in Sycamore trees, seedlings and seeds. Horses with access to pasture during the autumn or spring months are at risk of ingesting fallen sycamore leaves, seeds or eating seedlings.

There are some risk factors to be aware of:

- Young and old horses
- Pastures previously affected with EAM
- Heavily grazed pastures
- Pastures with or lined by sycamore trees
- Pastures on a slope
- Seed dispersal following high winds



Signs that you may see with EAM include:

Stiffness, muscle trembling, reluctance to move, depressed, lying down, dark urine. Early recognition allows swift hospitalisation and intensive care which gives your horse the best chance of survival.

These tips can help prevent atypical myopathy in your horse:

- Avoid grazing horses on previously affected pastures during autumn when Sycamore seeds are on the ground.
- Supplement at risk horses with hay or hard feed.
- Stay vigilant for the clinical signs - early diagnosis is vital!

New for 2020. Next year we aim to send all equine invoices by email. Not only does this help do our bit for the environment, reducing paper usage and printing but it keeps postage costs down and means you will have a digital record. If you would like to receive your invoices by email please contact our reception team with your current email address

Antibiotic use reduced

New VARSS report confirms that UK sales of all veterinary antibiotics have halved over the past four years with sales of horse-only antibiotics falling by 4.3 tonnes (64%) since 2017 and 13.6 tonnes (85%) since 2014.

Sales of veterinary antibiotics have reduced by 49% in just four years between 2014 – 2018, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) have confirmed.

As a practice we are very aware of our responsibility to help reduce antibiotic usage and help tackle antimicrobial resistance (AMR). If your vet recommends that your horse's condition can be treated without antibiotics please trust their opinion. Antibiotics will not be dispensed for conditions that have not been examined by a vet. The figure comes from the annual Veterinary Antibiotic Resistance Sales and Surveillance (UK-VARSS) report published last month. Read more - <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/veterinary-antimicrobial-resistance-and-sales-surveillance>

Where are we with Equine Influenza?

As you all know, this year has seen a very high level of equine influenza across the UK and Europe. The majority of the outbreaks were confirmed in June and July and this is largely thought to be due to the high mixing of horses that occur during the summer months. The UK saw the highest number of outbreaks and a hypothesis for this is that the UK has much lower levels of vaccination in comparison to Europe with unconfirmed reports of only 30-40% of UK horses being vaccinated.

Outbreak reports have reduced since August with none in September. October saw one reported case in an imported horse.

Previous control measures still stand and we continue to encourage owners to practice good biosecurity and responsible ownership. In particular -

- Continue careful biosecurity when horses are attending events.
- New arrivals should be quarantined, please talk to one of our vets about a biosecurity plan for your yard.
- Make sure you know the clinical signs of influenza and contact a vet if there is respiratory disease on your yard.
- Continue to vaccinate your horse. Many of the vaccination requirements for competition have changed this year. Make sure your vaccinations meet the new regulations. 6 monthly vaccination will provide your horse with the best protection against flu.

QUIZ NIGHT

Alnorthumbria Equine Quiz night
Thursday 30th January 2020
Morpeth Rugby Club, NE61 1RJ



alnorthumbria
veterinary group
EQUINE
Question Masters
Craig Anderson
and
Jack Thomas Watson

Buffet and refreshments from 6pm
BATTLE COMMENCES AT 7PM

**ORGANISE YOUR TEAM OF 4 THEN GIVE US A CALL
AT FAIRMOOR EQUINE CLINIC
ON 01670897597**

Handsome prizes and a raffle to raise money for Great North Air Ambulance.



alnorthumbria
veterinary group
EQUINE

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COLT CASTRATION PROMOTIONAL OFFER

Colt Castration

£139 Inc. VAT
(excluding visit fee, no visit fee required if you bring your horse to the practice)



The above does not include any drugs for tetanus cover or drugs required post operatively.
Additionally this promotion does not cover any treatment required in the event of any post operative complications

**To book call
01670 897597**

www.alnorthumbriavets.co.uk

Zone visits—Our ever popular zone visits continue to be busy. To allow us to continue to offer these free visits please remember to call between **3 and 5pm** the day before the visit to be given your time slot (Friday for Monday visits).

Remember that zone visits, as with all work we do, are pay at the time.

Our reception team will be able to give you an estimate before the vet visits. Payment can be in cash at the time or by card over the phone.

This up coming quiz promises to be a really enjoyable evening and a great way to rid the January blues. Get your team organised and give reception a call to book your team place. We are looking forward to some fun team names!

Red worm test—We are please to be offering the new red worm (cyathostome) blood test . This is another tool which should allow us to further reduce the use of dewormers in our horse population. Ideally this test would be performed at this time of year along with an Equisal tapeworm test prior to autumn worming. The test is £45 including the sampling fee and can be performed on zone visits. Please speak to our vets for more info.



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