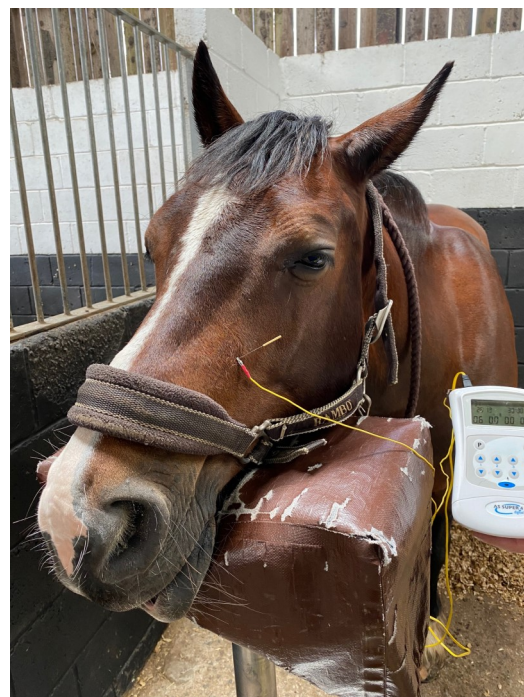


Headshaking:

Headshaking can be a really frustrating condition for horses and their owners alike. Head shaking in horses can vary from a subtle movement affecting the horse at specific times only, to a much more marked shaking occurring more frequently.

In horses that head shake, it is important to conduct a full examination including head x-rays, endoscopy, dental examination and sometime head and neck CT to rule out the various potential causes of headshaking, prior to making a presumptive diagnosis of trigeminal-mediated headshaking. Trigeminal-mediated headshaking is thought to occur due to an increase in sensitivity of the nerve, which supplies the lining of the nostrils and the skin between the eye and the muzzle. Various treatment options are available, but one of the newer treatment options is electro acupuncture—a procedure in which the nerve is stimulated repeatedly with an electric current via a needle inserted near the nerve. The treatment is repeated, and we see an increasing period of remission from head shaking with each treatment. This treatment is now available at Alnorthumbria, and Ewan has recently been using this treatment for a horse that head shakes, with really encouraging results! Check out our Facebook page for a video of this treatment in action!



August reminders:

- New Foals - remember it is important that all foals have access to an alternative feed source/creep feed from 2 months of age. It is also vital you regularly check their conformation as corrections for angular limb deformities have certain time restraints for optimal correction. This is done most effectively by walking the mare and foal in as straight a line as you can away from you and back towards you and looking at all the limbs and how straight they are. If in any doubt please call us in to have a look. Regular foot trimming is also important even in our young foals.
- Remember that all horses must be microchipped by law by October 2020—please give us a call if you are unsure if your horse needs to be microchipped, or if you are unsure and we can come and check for a microchip for you.

We would like to remind all members of the Horse Health Programme that they are entitled to one full health check each year—this is a full physical examination including heart, eyes, skin and a trot-up among other things! This is a great opportunity for a full 'MOT' of your horses and ponies—please give us a ring to book yours!

Have you ever wondered what all the letters after our vets' names mean?

The first set of initials (BVMS, BVetMed, BVM&S, BVM BVS, etc) is the Veterinary Degree we all hold, each University has a slight variation meaning you can tell where each vet graduated from. Roughly they are all Bachelors degrees in Veterinary Medicine and Surgery.

Next some of our vets have CertEP. This signifies our certificate holders in Advanced Veterinary Practice, specifically Equine Practice. A certificate is a masters level further degree undertaken over the course of 6 modules, each module takes around 4 months to complete. It is now possible to complete a certificate in specialist areas of interest too, where the letters become even more specific

In addition to our 4 fully qualified advanced practitioners (Ed, Lesley, Stephen and Kate) we currently have a further 3 in training! Nerea has recently finished her 2nd module whilst Max and Ewan are just completing their 1st. Not bad out of a team of 8 vets!!

Finally we all have MRCVS, this denotes our membership to the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. This is a legal requirement to practice as a vet within the UK. In order to join you have to have a veterinary degree which is recognised by the RCVS, and we must take an oath (much like the medical hippocratic oath), and we are then bound by the RCVS code of conduct.

Further information on our qualifications and certificates can be found on the RCVS website: www.rcvs.org.uk

Or to read more about our staff and how they ended up here go to our own website www.alnorthumbriavets.co.uk

Exciting new treatment for Equine Asthma:

There is a new inhaler available for the treatment of asthma in horses. The Aservo Equihaler is a licensed treatment for asthma in horses, for a 10 day course. It contains a drug (ciclesonide) which is activated into a corticosteroid in the cells within the lungs. This means it has an anti-inflammatory action in the lungs only, without other systemic effects. This is really useful as it limits the risk of systemic side effects!

The inhaler has a nozzle specifically designed to fit in the left nostril of horses, and we are finding that most horses tolerate the inhaler really well.

Asthma can be a really unpleasant condition for horses and ponies, with affected horses often coughing and having to put a lot of effort into breathing. Any of our clients with asthma will attest to how unpleasant it can be!



We are pleased to continue to be able to offer £5 zone visits. Free visit if 3 or more horses seen at the same time on the same yard.

Please remember that all zone work is strictly payment at the time. If you would like an estimate prior to any work being carried out please let us know.