

White Lodge Equine Clinic

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Welcome to our Winter Newsletter!

2022 saw some extreme and unusual weather patterns rarely associated with the UK, giving farmers and horse owners a constant battle with how best to manage land and animals.

We have had a high number of laminitis cases later in the year after the late grass growth, as well as some cases after this recent cold snap. Don't forget to stay vigilant for laminitis in winter - the combination of nights below 5°C and sunny days create the highest risk.

We also saw a run of sycamore and acorn poisoning this year, as did many vets in the UK. It's unknown exactly why there appeared to be more than normal this year, but it's definitely wise to plan field rotations to avoid horses being present when sycamore seeds or acorns are on the ground for next year.

Here's hoping the hay will last the winter, and some grass will grow next spring!

Wishing all of our clients and patients a happy and healthy 2023!



MUD FEVER

Mud fever is a common condition seen in the winter months on the lower legs of horses. They may have areas of scabs, sores or swelling and often be painful. Wet or muddy conditions weaken the skin and allow bacteria to enter and cause infection. There are many other predisposing factors such as washing legs without drying, chafing from boots, a poor immune system and white limbs. Because the condition is multi-factorial, it can often be challenging to get on-top of but these key points are the fundamentals of battling mud-fever:

Dry, dry, dry. Ideally the horse should be stabled or turned out only into an arena or dry surface until the skin has completely healed. If this is not possible, an antiseptic barrier cream such as Filta-bac should be applied before turn-out and the legs cleaned and dried thoroughly with towels or kitchen roll every day when brought in.



Hibiscrub wash once daily to gently remove the scabs in a 1:20 dilution with water, then... dry.

If the infection is more widespread and the limb is swollen, antibiotics and anti-inflammatories may be needed.

ANTICIPATING (OR HAVE) A DODGY TUMMY?

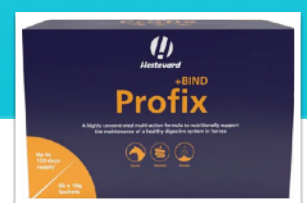
Profix is a fairly new product that many of our clients may have already used. Supplied in either sachets of powder or paste, it's proving very popular and effective.

Ingredients include:

- Pectizone - a proprietary blend of Pectin, Lecithin and Fructo-Oligosaccharide
- Probiotics - the live yeast *Saccharomyces Cerevisiae*
- Binders - Pectin & Kaolin to support normal stool consistency
- B-Vitamins - B1, B2 & B12
- Antioxidants - Vitamin C & natural Vitamin E to support the immune system
- Fenugreek - to improve feed palatability

Suitable for horses and foals of all ages - particularly useful for:

- Reducing the chance of digestive upset during antibiotic courses
- Any time of stress especially in horses prone to digestive upsets
- Foal scour



Focus on: DON'T BREAK YOUR VET (PHYSICALLY OR MENTALLY!)

Did you know that equine vets have one of the highest accidental injury and suicide risks of all civilian professions? The injury risk is possibly not surprising given that we work with very large and dangerous animals, often when they're feeling anxious or in pain. However, there are things you can do as a horse owner to help reduce the risk to your vet, and to make any veterinary interventions less stressful for you and your horse.

Teaching behaviours before your vet comes

A calm and well mannered horse makes an examination and treatment quicker and easier, and makes a diagnosis and correct treatment more likely. Skills such as standing still, leading and trotting up, being able to be injected, and clipped are essential for all horses.

If your horse struggles with any of these, then teaching them is possible, even with the 'quirkiest' of animals! Contact us for help and advice, or search for "BEVA - Don't break your vet" on YouTube for videos on how to teach all of the above behaviours!

A horse is never too old to be taught new tricks!

On the day of your vet visit

Make sure your horse is in from the field in good time. Our horses always know when something is up, and even the best behaved horses often see a vet truck from their field and decide they're not joining in with the party! Ensuring your horse is clean, dry and has had their feet picked out is always a bonus for us too!

Try to provide a well lit and dry examination area. We appreciate this may not always be possible, but trying to chase a horse around a muddy field corner looking at a foot abscess is unlikely to have such a good result!

Sedation is often seen by horse owners as a failure of either their horse's behaviour or the vet's ability. However for your and our safety, and for the best treatment, please allow your horse to be sedated if suggested by your vet! Horses fighting a procedure or examination will often become 'sensitised' and become more and more difficult in the future, as well as creating a dangerous environment for those working with them.

Listen to the vet. Especially in stressful emergency situations it can be difficult to take in information and understand what is being done or said. Please ask if something is not understood, or for the procedure to be

re-explained. We are always happy to write down a note or email our instructions, or phone us later if you realise you have no idea rather than using guesswork!

Does your horse need to come into the clinic? Sometimes it's more appropriate for your horse to be referred into the clinic. This may be for many reasons - such as using our stocks, lameness assessment areas, less portable equipment or more staff available. If this is requested, there's normally good reason for your horse's sake!

Administering medications

Always follow the instructions written on the label, if they don't seem right, or you can't understand them, give us a call to check!

Some horses can be very difficult to persuade to take medications. If your horse won't take what you've been prescribed, please call us ASAP to discuss an alternative medication or have some tips!

Happy horse, happy owner... happy vet

Be Kind

Don't forget your vet is a human too. As well as one of the highest rates of accidental injury, UK vets are 3-4 times more likely to pass away from suicide than the general population. Reasons for stress include:

- Lone working
- Lack of control of diary
- Long working hours
- Client complaints
- Out-of-hour duties
- Nature of work including euthanasia and financial limitations

Horses, as with all living things, don't always read the rule book, and things don't always go as we would always hope or expect. Like you, we also really want the best outcome for your horse, and it affects us too when things don't go to plan.

Especially in this area - we are often working out of signal so may be unable to contact you if visits are taking longer than expected, or not be able to pause a job to contact the office. While we will always try our best to be on time and contact you if not, please bear with us if you have to wait a few minutes!