

April Newsletter



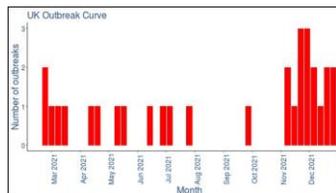
We will hopefully be able to bring you information on some summer and autumn client meetings over the next few weeks, now that COVID has receded enough to let us all meet up – watch our FB page for info. With the lovely weather, the grass is really getting going – be very careful with ones that have ‘wintered a little too well’ or are prone to EMS and laminitis – as reported below, overweight is now considered ‘normal’, but this assumption cannot end well...

On the breeding front, the early season mares have got going and many of them are covered and some of the foals from last year are on the ground - congratulations to all!

Equine Influenza data

Although the risk from the outbreak a few years ago has receded, it is worth remembering the importance of vaccination for equine ‘flu. There were a flurry of outbreaks during December and there were four outbreaks in Yorkshire last year, the highest of any county save for Essex.

Not maintaining the increased vaccination status that we have built up over the last few years would be a shame, not least to avoid the prospect of cancelled shows and a subsequent return to the militant passport checking at every competition! If you want to check if your dates are ok, you can always ask us to check the passport.



Equiflunet data 20/21



	FEI	Pony club	Racing	Leisure	Showing
Primary course: 1st	From 6 month old	From 6 months old	From 6 months old	From 6 months old	From 6 months old
Primary course: 2nd	3-4 weeks to 3 months later	3-4 weeks to 3 months later **	3-4 weeks to 8 weeks later (21-60 days)**	3-4 weeks to 3 months later	3-4 weeks to 3 months later
1* booster	5-7 months later	5-7 months later	4-6 months later (120-180 days)	5-7 months later	5-7 months later **
Next booster	Within 6 months and 21 days	12 months	No more than 6 months later	12 months	12 months
Can't compete after vaccine until	Cannot compete for 7 days after vaccine	Cannot compete for 7 days after vaccine	Cannot race for 7 days after vaccine	N/A	Cannot compete for 7 days after vaccine

*AT THE MOMENT - unless the event/show runs under FEI rules, so owner MUST check for themselves

** MUST have completed these 7 days before entering the competition ground, not just day of competition

NEW FOR JANUARY 2022 – Those with a previous compliant primary course don't have to restart

Over-weight and under-insured...

Obesity is often cited as the greatest threat to equine welfare in the UK, with rates maybe as high as 70% in some populations. The condition is clearly associated with EMS and laminitis, but it also has direct links with orthopaedic disease, hyperlipaemia, hyperthermia/heat intolerance, increased respiratory effort, infertility and poor performance.



We see more and more horses that are carrying an ‘extra rider’ at all times – so much so that insurance companies are becoming aware. Several recent pre-purchase examinations commenting on an above average condition score have led to insurance exclusions on *all diseases relating to obesity*...

As the list above shows this is quite a big exclusion – even more reason to try and keep your horse’s weight down!

Equine Asthma (EA) – seasonal coughing

Every year we are surprised by the number of respiratory issues we see in the spring. Historically, most coughs and asthmatic issues were over the winter when feeding dry hay in stables caused the issue. This is still common, but we have a large number of more subtle clinical cases at this time of year, all showing classic signs of respiratory disease - coughing, exercise intolerance and nasal discharge.



EA is caused by exposure to airborne environmental particles resulting in a lower respiratory inflammatory response (bronchospasm, excessive mucous, decreased mucous clearance and build up of inflammatory cells) and can run on from a respiratory infection. What is causing an increase in 'out of season' issues isn't clear, but the trigger will still be related to allergens in the horses environment.

Treatment of these cases consists of reducing the clinical signs, either systemically or via an inhaler, but we may need additional diagnosis as well before finding the best treatment. This is commonly from analysing a wash from an upper airway endoscopy, but we may also look to try and identify any specific allergens that the horse may be sensitive to, initially via a blood sample, to see if any simple management changes are possible. If your horse or pony is showing any signs, it is always worth getting them looked at before it gets chronic and harder to control.



Repeat prescriptions and medicine orders

Brief reminder about the email address meds@bishoptonequinevets.co.uk to re-order medicines – with the usual 24hrs notice please. Thank you to everyone who has made use of this address – it saves filling the main equine inbox. Any problems or feedback please do let us know.

Worming Scheme - egg counts are underway

So far the burdens have been generally very low, which is great, but an odd surprising one has appeared. These are the cases that if untreated can cause significant contamination of the pasture at an important time of year, so its always good to check at this stage.

*From a practical point of view, could we also add a polite request please to **not bring egg counts back to us on a Friday!** If the nurses don't have time to run them that afternoon then we get into trouble as they should ideally be done within 48 hrs – thank you in advance.*

Reminder - Breeding schemes

We offer a range of schemes for the different options available, natural service, chilled and frozen AI each designed to keep control of the cost of veterinary input into covering your mare whether via chilled/frozen AI or natural service. Contact us for more information



The easiest way to get in touch is to email us at equine@bishoptonequinevets.co.uk or call the surgery on 01765 602396.