

The George Veterinary Group

Equine Clinic

SPRING 2010

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Comings and goings!



SARAH HAYES

After ten happy years working for The George, I have decided to take a career break to spend some time bringing up my two small daughters. It has been such a difficult decision and I will miss so many of you; our clients, your horses, ponies, donkeys and chil-

dren, not to mention our endless conversations and friendships!

I am sure to bump into many of you in the future at various equine events and I wish you all the very best with your horse, both fun times and good health!

Caroline Foalkes MRCVS has now joined the team. She has been working at Liverpool University as part of their equine team of vets. Caroline is a highly

dedicated, experienced veterinary surgeon who is friendly and approachable. She will be a great addition to the team and I know you will all make her very welcome.



Client evening & Quiz results

On 10th March 2010, we held a client evening at Chippenham Golf Club. It was a well attended meeting and there

were three excellent talks from Linda, Oscar and Andy.

Thank you to all those who came along. We have had some very positive feedback on your newfound knowledge about colic, rehabilitation and skin disease.

We also displayed some of our mobile equipment such as digital x-ray and shock wave therapy.

There was plenty of opportunity to practice intramuscular injection techniques (on a very

dead piece of meat, so no kicking!) and there was an equine quiz which everyone seemed to enjoy participating in, particularly guessing what some smaller pieces of equine veterinary equipment were used for. We had some inventive suggestions!

There were plenty of great prizes, such as a fleece cooler rug, a year's subscription to Horse magazine, saddlecloths and many more. I have pleasure in listing the winners opposite. Well done to everyone who took part, a great effort by all!

Congratulations to all the prize winners! We will be arranging another client evening for the autumn.

These talks are designed to provide you with helpful information, new facts and up-to-date treatment options for your horses. We would always be interested in a particular subject that someone would like to discuss and we try hard to ensure that the evening is not too arduous on the tired brain!

Please come along, catch up with us and enjoy a free equine evening of entertain-

ment whilst learning something new!

Prize Winners

- 1st: Clare Macleod
- 2nd: Nic Davies
- 3rd: Lorna Soames
- 4th: Rachel Hammond
- 5th: Michelle Phillips
- 6th: Charlotte Swann
- 7th: Sarah Ingram
- 8th: Lucy Dando
- 9th: Hannah Ingram
- 10th: Louise Fry
- 11th: Rosie Swann
- 12th: Ann Jobbins

Badminton Horse Trials

This year there was an extended format over the Bank Holiday weekend with the cross country on Sunday and the final show jumping on Monday. Congratulations to the final winner Paul Tapner.

This year for the first time, there was a Grassroots eventing competition on Thursday and Friday. Hopefully some of you enjoyed a great day taking in the shops, walking the main course and watched some inspirational, lower level eventing and potential stars of the future!! Thursday is always a good day to start by watching the veterinary inspection and trot up in front of Badminton House ready for the main event. I hope you all enjoyed your weekend!



The dreaded laminitis...



Classic laminitic stance

The warmer weather is almost here. We've had the rain and a spring flush of rich grass is upon us. Take care with any pony or horse that you either know has a previous history of laminitis or maybe at a greater risk, e.g. overweight, out of work or elderly and possibly cushingoid.

There is a very high level of sugar (fructans) in young grass

and this is the causative factor in the majority of cases of laminitis. Limiting turnout time, not fertilizing the land and considering a grazing muzzle are all useful factors to consider. You will find a detailed article on our website www.georgevetgroup.co.uk just click on the equine link.

just started some new hay that isn't up to scratch?

2. What bedding is your horse on? Has anything changed with the type, quality or supplier that you have recently used?

3. Are any other horses displaying respiratory signs on the yard? Have any new horses arrived and have they been isolated or have they been in contact/next door to your horse?
4. Is your horse getting outside each day for fresh air? Is he well in himself and has he wintered well?
5. Are the pollen levels now causing a problem?

The list of questions can go further, however the above are to give you something to think about and if in doubt do ring and talk to one of the equine team.

Coughs and Splutters



We are now through a long and hard winter, but at this time of year we still get many horses coughing.

Often these individuals which have no history of respiratory disease but the many months of stabling and hay have finally tipped their immune systems over and respiratory signs start to show.

Many horses will cough in response to dust and so alterations to their management can improve this. Also the cough may self

resolve in some cases once the horse is turned out and not being fed any supplementary hay.

Don't ignore the problem, get pro-active.

If you find yourself in this situation, ask yourself a few questions - and answer them honestly!

1. What is your hay quality like? Does it smell sweet, is it musty or dusty? Do you damp it down; have you been conscientious about doing so? Have you

Sweet-itch

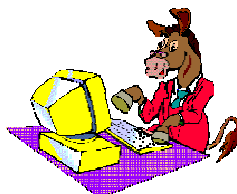


you should have been putting on a protective rug quite a few weeks ago! If not, put it on quick, the midges are already out with a vengeance. This horrible disease drives horses to

If you have a horse that suffers from sweet-itch,

become irritable and sore. It can be very difficult to stop the itch-scratch-rub cycle once it has got a grip and then our treatment options become limited and everyone gets frustrated. The rugs, such as Boett or Snuggly Hoods have wide belly straps to protect much of the abdomen from attack and the head and neck are also protected. Switch is a weekly pour-on product that will help to deter the midge (*Culicoides* spp.) and Cavalesse is a recently available combination therapy which has been developed to specifically reduce the itchiness of sweet-itch sufferers.

Please remember to keep us updated with all your contact details, post codes, yard changes and mobile phone numbers so that we hold all the correct information on our database. It does help all the vets when trying to get to you in an emergency or on time for routine calls! You can email these changes to us - horse@georgevetgroup.co.uk. We are trying to build up our email contacts so that we can send you newsletters and updates in this format.



Since this is the last newsletter I will write for a while, I'd like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck! Take care and enjoy your equine friends!

With my very best wishes,

Sarah