

north
west.
equine
vets

Newsletter

Spring 2016

we have you covered.

They say time flies when you're having fun, well that's certainly been the case here at Northwest Equine. The first three months have passed so quickly and we would like to thank all our clients for their support of our new Practice. We look forward to helping you keep your horses healthy and sound in the months ahead.

Laminitis and Investigating Lameness

Many ponies and horses have had it easy this winter and not lost much weight. Now that the grass has started to grow again, please do be careful with overweight animals and those at risk of laminitis due to Cushings disease. It is worth remembering that much of our lush pasture is too rich for our native ponies so grazing needs to be restricted using starvation paddocks made with electric fencing, grazing muzzles, or both.

We are holding a client evening on Thursday 19th May at Whoop Hall near Kirkby Lonsdale. Our guest speaker, David Rendle, is a well-renowned expert on laminitis and you will hear lots of useful up-to-date information. Research into this nasty disease is ongoing worldwide, and the more knowledge we can pass on to you as owners, the better prepared you can be to help protect your horses and ponies. Paul Smith will also be talking about investigating lameness and the veterinary approach to the lame horse.

Client Evening

Thursday 19th May

Whoop Hall
Kirkby Lonsdale

If you would like to attend please contact Nicola, the practice manager, at office@nwev.co.uk

Collecting drugs

With the formation of North West Equine Vets, we are able to offer drug collection points for clients at 3 different sites; Westmorland Vets at Kendal and Kirkby Lonsdale and NW Equine at Rathmell. However, please be aware that it can take 2-3 days from the time of order for parcels of drugs to be delivered to Kendal or Kirkby, especially if they are items that we don't hold in stock. Most medicines can also be posted to you for a small fee.



Zone Visits

You will all know by now that zone visits are charged at £10-15 for each owner. For us to be able to continue to provide zone visits, fees for work carried out on the zone should be paid on the day of the visit, the same way you would normally pay your farrier or physio. Cash can be collected by the attending vet, or you can telephone the office with a card payment.



Mites ('Feather mites' or 'Chorioptic mange')

The mild winter has allowed the *Chorioptes equi* mite, pictured, to flourish this year. We have seen a lot of itchy lower limbs, with affected horses stamping their feet and biting or rubbing their feathers – often with thick scaly scabs over deep cracks in the skin and a secondary bacterial infection.

For effective management of this disease, the feathers should be clipped off to enable thorough cleaning and proper penetration of the skin by topical products. When this is not possible, complete resolution of the disease is much harder to achieve.



The treatment of choice is a course of 2 or 3 injections of a cattle wormer, Dectomax™. The drug enters the bloodstream and kills adult mites which are feeding on the surface of the skin. Second, and sometimes third doses are required because mite eggs are not affected by the drug, and it takes 2-3 weeks for them to hatch and grow to adults. We might ask you to sign a disclaimer because though it is effective and safe, Dectomax™ is not licensed for use in horses.

Other products which help control the mites and the irritation are Frontline (a dog and cat flea spray), Lime plus wash, and pig oil with sulphur. Sometimes oral or injectable antibiotics, or creams, may be prescribed for clearing up any secondary bacterial infection.

Worm Egg Counts

A reminder that we offer a worm egg count service at a very competitive price. We recommend WEC's during the summer months to avoid worming horses unnecessarily. Samples can be posted to Rathmell, or dropped in person at Rathmell, Kirkby or Kendal.

- 1-4 samples £9
- 5-9 samples £8.50*
- 10+ samples £8*

* If you are submitting 5 or more samples, please let us know in advance so we can make sure we have time set aside to process them.

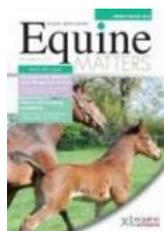
When collecting a sample please include poo from 3 separate locations within a pile to increase the accuracy of the test.



Our 2016 worming programme is available on the website
<http://www.northwestequinevets.co.uk/equine-care/worming-programme>



North West Equine Vets Ltd is a member of XL Vets, a group of independently owned, progressive veterinary practices that work together to achieve the highest standards of veterinary care.



Equine Matters, a quarterly magazine, is free to download from the XL Equine website (<http://www.xlequine.co.uk/>). This contains articles of interest to horse owners and our own vets are regular contributors. You can also pick up a copy at the practice or ask one of the vets when they visit.



There are also over 100 free factsheets available on the website on all kinds of topics from allergic skin disease to sarcoids.