

NEWS *letter*



2nd edition

MEET OUR NEW VET!

Luke Jackman BSc BVSc MRCVS

Originally from London, Luke graduated from Liverpool University in 2014

Luke moved to Yorkshire and Joined Aireworth Vets in January 2015 as an Equine Veterinary Surgeon, he then joined us here at North West Equine Vets in July 2019 to continue his equine work. He enjoys all aspects of equine work but his particular interests include Sarcoids, Colic and Gastrosocopy.

Outside of work, Luke enjoys hiking, climbing and playing the guitar. If he is not out in the Yorkshire Dales or the beautiful Lake District, you will most likely find him sampling the fine beers Yorkshire has to offer.

Many of you will meet Luke soon, around and about!

Welcome to the practice Luke!



Respiratory endoscopy

The horse's respiratory tract is divided into two portions, the upper (URT) and lower (LRT). The URT comprises the nostrils, nasal passages and cavities, pharynx and larynx. The trachea (windpipe) and the smaller airways into the lungs are the parts of the LRT.

Respiratory disease can affect the entire tract, but often is confined to the URT or the LRT separately. Sometimes, the symptoms are very obvious, and can be diagnosed by clinical examination. Other times the clinical signs are very subtle and further diagnostics need to be done.

We use an endoscope to view the inside of the respiratory tract, providing more information and allowing samples to be taken from deep inside the LRT. An endoscope is a long, bendy tube with a light and camera on the end. It can be passed up the nose into the cavities of the head, through the larynx and into the trachea and lungs.

Common reasons to use an endoscope include: persistent cough, bleeding nose, airway noise when exercising or poor performance & breathlessness when exercised. The procedure is painless but some horses find it a little uncomfortable. Horses may be sedated, but some conditions are better viewed completely conscious.



One of the most common conditions investigated using endoscopy is recurrent airway obstruction, or equine asthma (used to be known as COPD). The endoscope allows us to visualise the excess discharge, often within the LRT, to take samples to differentiate between mucus and pus. This enables appropriate treatment to be prescribed.

Another common problem investigated using the endoscope (this time of the URT) is recurrent laryngeal neuropathy. Horses with this condition are sometimes called 'roarers' because they make a loud noise during exercise. One half of the larynx has a reduced nerve supply and doesn't open when the horse breathes in, causing the roaring noise, and reducing the airflow to the lungs. Endoscopy at rest can diagnose severe cases, but the more specialised "over land" endoscopy entails securing a thin endoscope in situ in the respiratory tract, and viewing the larynx and other tissues whilst the horse is actually exercising. Surgery is used to correct laryngeal neuropathy.

PRACTICAL WEIGHT LOSS TIPS

We all know how hard it can be to get some horses to lose weight, so we've put together some ideas to help you; whether your horse is just starting their weight loss journey or you're looking for something different to try with a "good doer"!

Reducing grazing

Bare paddock
Strip grazing
Track system
Co-grazing with sheep
Non-grass paddock, e.g. wood chip, concrete yard, rubber; ideally avoid turn out on sand due to increased risk of colic.



Decreased grazing time, although beware of bingeing behaviour. A horse can eat enough grass for a full day in just 4 hours!

Grazing muzzle, should be worn all the time the horse is turned out to avoid bingeing when removed. Remember to remove daily to check for rubbing.

Altering feed

Limit hard feed to a good quality low calorie balancer to provide vitamins and minerals. This is particularly important to provide if soaking hay.

Weigh haynets

Consider having forage analysed

Change to hay from haylage

Mix in oat straw to provide bulk with less calories

Use a double haynet or a trickle net

Use toys or feeders such as a hay ball

Split forage into small amount and hang nets in different places

Increasing exercise

Riding more! Consistent exercise 4-5 times a week is better than long sessions 1-2 times a week.

Remember walk is very gentle exercise, trot and canter will burn many more calories.

Include hills when hacking, build up to trotting uphill for increasing periods.

For non-ridden exercise consider lungeing, long reining, leading (either in hand or from another horse) or a horse walker.

Track system in field

Using metabolism

Avoid rugging where possible to encourage the horse to use calories for warmth.

Consider clipping, a trace or hunter clip will work well for most.

Allow natural weight loss over winter, you should be able to just see the outline of your horses ribs at the end of winter.

Zone Visit Prices

From the 1st August 2019, the price for all zone visits will be uniformly priced at £15.00 per client. We believe that these visits continue to represent great value for money for your routine veterinary treatments and preventative healthcare.

