



Welcome Dr Caitlin Crossley BVSc MRCVS

Caitlin graduated from Liverpool University in 2021 receiving the Equine Clinical Rotation prize.

Whilst enjoying all areas of Equine practice, She has a specific interest in lameness diagnostics and orthopaedics.

Caitlin has been working with horses since she was young, and competes her Dales Pony Flash throughout Europe as part of the Great British TREC team.

As well as riding she likes to spend time doing any outdoor activity, especially those that involve her two spaniels!

Please give her a warm NWEV welcome if you see her!



Encounter with a gatepost

14 year old Sports horse mare, Cassie had a run-in with a gate post on the morning of July 2nd. The post is part of a gateway she had been through several times a day for the past 10 years, and the mornings turn out was no different to any other. She showed no distress as she



wandered off down the field and her fly rug hid the evidence of any trauma. So it was another hour or so until the owner realised anything had happened at all.

A 3ft long tear ran from just behind Cassies right shoulder upwards across her right flank to her hip. The muscle layers where opened at the front of the wound, exposing 2 ribs. Yet she was standing as if nothing had happened! Unfortunately Cassie hates vets and hates needles even more. Eventually she was sedated enough to start deadening the edges of the wound with local aesthetic. Another hour and it was ready for suturing. A drain was placed to allow discharge to gravitate away from the pocket that would inevitably form under the sutured flap. It quickly became apparent that the stocks of suture material in the vets



van would not be enough of a wound of this size. Emergency Supplies where brought out from the practice: Old fashioned thick nylon, strong enough to hold together wound edges which where under a considerable amount of tension.

Wounds of this part of the body usually heal well. The concern was that the lower skin flap had lost its blood supply, and that such a large area might die and slough off. Cassies owners have been very careful with



keeping flies away from the wound and have diligently cleaned it twice per day. She was stable rested until the sutures could come out as the thought of her enjoying a good roll in the field was our big dread!

Cassie has endured two more vets visits and is hoping not to see us for a long time now. She has healed remarkably quickly, and should be able to return to work as soon as the scar is not painful.

Warm Weather Woes

With the recent hot weather, we've been seeing more minor ailments caused by heat, flies and pollen. Here we run through the most common complaints and how you can tackle them effectively.

Fly Bites:

Good fly control is essential at this time of year. Biting flies can be a real nuisance to our horses. You can reduce exposure to flies by turning horses out overnight instead of during the day and avoid areas with lots of trees or standing water, a windy hillside is ideal! If this is not possible, then fly spray, fly rugs, weekly pour-on products or a combination can be used. Bites which become swollen or sore can be hosed or cold packed 2-3 times a day to provide some relief.

Hives:

Some horses are more sensitive to fly bites than others and may develop hives. Hives are raised patches which develop on the skin due to an allergic reaction. They can vary in size from as small as a 10 pence piece to as large as your palm and may cover large areas of the body. Despite the sometimes dramatic appearance, they rarely require veterinary treatment and most cases will settle down over a few days. Cold hosing can help to soothe any itching. Cases which fail to resolve on their own, excessive itching or lumps that are weeping or discharging should be assessed by a vet.

Runny Eyes:

Fly irritation, and in some cases high levels of pollen, can cause red and watery eyes. As with most things, prevention is better than cure, so in addition to the fly control measures above a good quality fly mask is a worthwhile investment. Weepy eyes can be bathed using a homemade saline solution of a teaspoon of salt dissolved in a pint of cooled boiled water. If you notice any thick discharge, excessive swelling, reluctance to open the eye or discomfort, please call us for advice; as this could be a sign of a more serious issue such as a corneal ulcer or uveitis.

Overheating:

Our horses in the UK are not adapted to high temperatures and therefore are more at risk of overheating during periods of hot weather. As well as being a good way to avoid flies, turning horses out overnight and bringing them in to their stable during the day will help them stay cool. If you do need to turn out during the day, ensure that there is plenty of shade and easy access to fresh water in the field. Exercise should be done early in the morning or late in the evening, and if your horse has been working hard and sweating it is a good idea to offer them water with some electrolytes dissolved in it afterwards. Signs of heat stroke include excessive sweating, rapid breathing, restlessness, stumbling and in the worst case collapse. If you suspect heat stroke, act immediately to cool the horse down by applying cool water all over with a hosepipe or bucket and call your vet as soon as possible.

