



Equine Practice News

Winter 2011

To take advantage of 'Vaccination Back on Track®' please ring the Equine Centre on 0117 928 9620 to book your visit for January 2012 First Vaccine—not valid in any other month.

ProText Text Alert Vaccine Reminders

To help remind you when your horse's booster is due we are launching ProText – a personalised text message reminder service which will alert you and give you time to book your appointment. Please contact the practice if you wish to confirm we have your correct details. We need to state that it is ultimately your responsibility to ensure your horses' boosters are kept up to date but we hope this improved service helps you do so.

Back on Track—Vaccine Amnesty January 2012

Is your Horse's Vaccinations Up-to-Date?

Would you like a Free Second Vaccine?

As a practice, we at Langford Veterinary Services are keen to highlight the benefits of vaccinating your horse(s) against Equine Influenza (Flu) and Tetanus. To get you 'Back on Track®' with flu vaccination we are pleased to offer you a flu vaccine amnesty kindly sponsored by Merial Animal Health who provide our flu vaccines. We chose this vaccine because it contains the latest flu virus strains which offer your horse the most up to date protection. Any horse that

is older than 12 months of age that has not been vaccinated against flu or that needs to re-start the vaccination course can now have the second vaccine of the primary course free of charge.

So What is Equine Flu?

Equine flu is extremely contagious and so the best way of preventing both your horse and other horses from becoming infected is to vaccinate. As a disease the signs of flu can vary from a few days of the classic snotty nose with a high temperature and harsh dry cough, to serious life-threatening infections especially in young foals.

'Why should I vaccinate?' I hear you cry. Firstly your horse will feel exactly the same as we do when we have the flu – rotten. Also, in becoming infected your

horse stands a real chance of infecting many others with the virus. This viral shed is significantly reduced by vaccination. Finally, as you are all probably aware, to compete your horse you will need an up to date passport demonstrating your horse's up to date vaccination status.

'How many outbreaks?'

There have been 10 outbreaks around the UK over the past 12 months, some as close as Gloucestershire and South Wales.

STAY IN STEP WITH EQUINE INFLUENZA



Mud Fever—Top Tips

The term 'mud fever' can be used to describe a range of conditions caused by the bacteria *Dermatophilus congolensis* from mild skin irritation to sore, painful and swollen legs that can cause a lameness. Usually affecting the back of the pastern in the lower leg, it can often start as matted hair but if you look more closely you will see crusts in the skin and then weeping lesions. So here are some **Top Tips**:

- ✓ Check the legs regularly
- ✓ Clip any hair away
- ✓ With boots and bandages—avoid sources or irritation and clean the legs after removal
- ✓ Bathe affected areas with antibacterial shampoo e.g. hibiscrub
- ✓ Dry the area thoroughly after washing
- ✓ Seek veterinary advice early, especially if the problem is not getting better as other treatments such as antibiotics may be needed.
- ✓ Apply barrier cream to clean, dry legs
- ✓ Avoid horses standing in poached gateways
- ✓ Washing legs does not necessarily prevent the problem—try to let the mud dry and brush it off!

Getting on a bit....

Have you noticed that there are more older horses about these days? Like people, horses seem to achieve greater age and are often healthy and able to work longer. This greater longevity is largely due to better care by you, the owner and a better understanding of their particular age related needs by vets. Preventative health care is the important thing here and this hinges on regular examination and assessment.

To this end we are presenting a free evening talk for horse owners specifically about the older horse and the problems they present.

**Free
Evening Talk—One
Hoof in the Grave
Wednesday 9th
November 2011
6.30pm—8pm**

For more information on the Evening Talk go to the website link below. On the evening we will launch a subsidised clinical assessment of the older horse to help you keep them in tip top condition. (see panel on right)

This price does not include treatments or other available diagnostics. However it does include Half Price follow up dental work —the vet will explain this option when they visit.

To take advantage of our Geriatric Assessment Package please ring the Equine Centre on

0117 928 9620

**Sedate for Clipping
Winter Offer £40,
including FOC Visit**

www.langfordvets.co.uk/cpdinfo.htm



Langford

VETERINARY SERVICES

Geriatric Horse or Pony Assessment Package £50

**Full Geriatric Horse or Pony
Assessment includes:**

- ✓ Full clinical examination
- ✓ Trot up
- ✓ Oral & tooth examination
- ✓ Body Condition Score
- ✓ Eye examination
- ✓ Skin & Coat Condition
- ✓ Includes Visit where required

First Aid Boxes

Make the Perfect Christmas Gift!

Special Offer

£45.

**Langford Large User Veterinary
Kit**

**Small User Veterinary Kit also
available for £25**

