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**Langford**  
VETERINARY SERVICES

## Equine Head Shaker Investigation at the Equine Centre for only £500. (Save over £150)

There are many reasons why a horse might shake its head, however there are a number of horses where no cause is apparent. Often in these cases the horse's behaviour is blamed and no treatment is undertaken.

However, idiopathic head shaking has remarkable similarities to human neuropathic facial pain syndromes such as Trigeminal Neuralgia. We now have good evidence that the horses are headshaking as a response to pain from the trigeminal nerve. Either the trigeminal nerve itself, or the brain, is responding incorrectly to normal mild stimuli and interpreting them wrongly as pain. People with Trigeminal Neuralgia describe it as the worst pain known to man. Sufferers report an electric shock like pain across part of the face and usually there is a trigger for this pain such as brushing teeth.

Although we must be careful when drawing parallels between human and animal disease, understanding the problems faced by human Trigeminal Neuralgia sufferers can help us to understand our headshaking horses. Pain in response to a specific trigger factor eg. pollen, would explain why some horses only headshake for part of the year or in specific situations. Importantly, we can prove headshaking is caused by pain because in many horses signs are alleviated for a short period of time after a posterior ethmoidal nerve block.

We are offering to investigate these cases and if pain does seem to be the underlying cause, once other possible causes have been ruled out, we can see if any might be suitable for a pioneering new surgical technique—caudal compression of the infraorbital nerve. We are at the forefront of this challenging condition and so able to offer the best possible current diagnostics and treatment to head shakers.

Reference V.L.H. Roberts, S.A. McKane, A. Williams and D.C. Knottenbelt. Caudal compression of the infraorbital nerve: A novel surgical technique for treatment of idiopathic headshaking and assessment of its efficacy in 24 horses. *Equine Veterinary Journal* (2009) 41 (2) 165-170.

Roberts V.L.H. (2011) Idiopathic headshaking: understanding the pathophysiology. (Guest editorial). *Vet Rec* 17(8).

Full head shaker evaluation includes:

- Full clinical examination
- Ophthalmic examination
- Upper respiratory tract (including guttural pouches) endoscopy
- Oral examination
- Posterior ethmoidal nerve blocks
- Two days hospitalisation and observation

This price does not include treatments or other available diagnostics. Any additional diagnostics or treatments will be tailored to the individual patients after discussion with the owner and referring veterinary surgeon.

*Veronica Roberts*

**Veronica Roberts MA VetMB MA DipECEIM MRCVS  
Clinical Fellow in Equine Medicine and European  
Specialist in Equine Internal Medicine**

To discuss any case with Veronica Roberts, or colleagues, or if you have a specific enquiry please phone the equine clinic on:

0117 928 9621

or email [veronica.roberts@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:veronica.roberts@bristol.ac.uk)



## Equine Periodontal Disease Investigation Special Package Price from only £250.

Periodontal disease is a highly prevalent disease of the horse's mouth which can result in biting problems, painful eating and eventually weight loss. We are pleased to offer the following services at the Equine Centre:

### Full assessment, which includes the following:

- Consultation
- Clinical examination
- Oral examination and endoscopy
- Radiography and occlusal views under sedation

The following treatments are available for selection depending on the individual needs of the patient, but are **not included** in the special package price:

- Correction of lesions causing soft tissue trauma
- Reduction of focal overgrowths and transverse ridges
- Diastema widening using water cooled instruments
- Periodontal clearance and debridement
- Periodontal stenting
- Intra oral antimicrobials
- Dental extraction if necessary

These are all performed under sedative/analgesic combinations, tailored to the individual patients needs, after discussion with the owner, and usually performed using local analgesic to improve the experience for the horse or pony.



# Langford

VETERINARY SERVICES

## Cryptorchid Castration, including by Laparoscopy Special Package Price of only £750.

### The procedure includes:

- Laparoscopic castration of the retained testis (where possible)
- Open castration of the descended testis
- 3 days hospitalisation
- 3 days of antibiotics and associated post operative medication.

\*Unforeseen complications or prolonged hospitalisation will incur additional fees.

**To discuss any case with  
Henry Tremaine or colleagues,  
or if you have a specific enquiry  
please phone the equine clinic on:  
0117 928 9621**

**Mr Henry Tremaine BVetMed MPhil  
CertES Dip ECVS MRCVS  
Senior Lecturer in Equine Surgery with  
Clinical Interests in Equine Upper Respiratory Tract Disease and Dentistry as well as  
Wound Management and Laparoscopic Surgery.**

Henry is a Specialist in Equine Surgery and teaches other veterinary surgeons the skills required to undertake dentistry procedures in a professional and compassionate manner. He is an RCVS and European Specialist in Equine Surgery, and has published and lectured widely internationally and in the UK.