



Spring 2009

ISLE VALLEY EQUINE CLINIC

Dear Client

Welcome to our Equine Newsletter keeping you up to date with the staff and work of Isle Valley Equine Clinic. This issue contains information about how to contact us in an emergency, the battle against worms, plus details of our client evening on **Managing the Laminitic Horse** to be held on **Thursday 7 May at 7.30pm at Seavington Millennium Hall.**

We have recently re-vamped our website. Clients can access advice and information on a number of topics with free downloads available on problems such as Mud Fever, Dental Care and Vetting to name but a few! If you have not visited it recently then go to **www.islevalleyvets.co.uk** and have a browse!

VACCINATION MONTH

STOP PRESS! Don't forget it's **National Vaccination Month in June.** Lots of freebies for those who take part! Contact the clinic on 01460 66099 for more details.

THE FIVE STAGE VETTING



As winter slowly disappears many people are looking to purchase new horses and are keen to ensure the prospective

horse is 'fit for the job'. At Isle Valley Vets we carry out a specific examination as set by BEVA, which can help detect signs of disease and injury. Our recommended examination is conducted in five stages consisting of:
Stage 1: Preliminary examination – a methodical examination of the horse's body to assess general appearance and condition including the teeth, heart, eyes, skin, limbs and feet, and flexion of the limb joints to reveal pain or limitation of movement.

Stage 2: Trotting up – the horse is walked and trotted in order to detect gross abnormalities of gait and action.

Stage 3: Strenuous exercise – the horse is given sufficient strenuous exercise so that any unusual breathing sounds may be heard and any abnormalities in the heart can be detected more easily.

Stage 4: A period of rest – the breathing and heart are checked as they return to their resting levels. It also allows low grade lameness problems to be detected as stiffness may develop and be seen by the examining veterinary surgeon during the next stage.

Stage 5: The second trot up and foot examination which may reveal abnormalities exacerbated by the strenuous exercise stage.

A less thorough two stage vetting is available if required. For further details please contact the Clinic on **01460 66099.**

WORMS AND HOW BEST TO CONTROL THEM!

All horses host a wide range of internal parasites capable of causing many clinical problems such as colic, weight loss, diarrhoea, poor performance and even death.

It is widely accepted that 90% of all colic cases may have parasitism as an initiating or underlying cause. Problems such as drug resistance arise because worming drugs are administered too frequently. Most of these drugs are not bought from the veterinary surgeon and therefore the dosing information is often confusing and inaccurate. As a consequence, there is now widespread parasite resistance to many of the drugs in common use, particularly the benzimidazole group.





It is impossible to give blanket information that is applicable or relevant to all horse owners, as a worming programme involves both pasture management and drug administration and can vary depending on the premises.

At Isle Valley Vets

we recommend doing routine faecal egg counts to assess the worm burden and to determine the appropriate time to administer drugs. This method reduces the frequency and cost of worming and helps reduce the development of resistance in parasites. To have a faecal egg count done, simply collect a 'golf-ball' size sample of your horse's droppings and either take it or post it to the clinic clearly marked with your horse's name and your surname and address. The results usually take approximately five days. We can then advise you as to what worming programme your horse requires.

Please note: *the faecal egg count does not always detect tapeworms. We recommend treating for tapeworms every spring and autumn. We can do a blood test to check for problems. Simply contact us to arrange a visit.*

MANAGING THE LAMINITIC HORSE CLIENT EVENING

As the days get longer and warmer so the risk of laminitis increases. Although laminitis is traditionally associated with ponies, horses of all sizes can suffer from it. If caught in time, laminitis can be managed and the horse or pony can lead a relatively normal life. If left untreated it can cripple the horse and lead to its death.

On **Thursday 7 May at 7.30pm at Seavington Millennium Hall** we will be holding a Client evening to advise and inform clients on the signs of early laminitis and how best to care for the laminitic horse.

Simon Grant, Dominic Schneiders and Susannah Reynoldson will be joined by remedial farrier **Chris Parsons**.

The evening is free but places may be limited

so if you would like to attend please book a place by phoning **01460 66099**.



EMERGENCIES

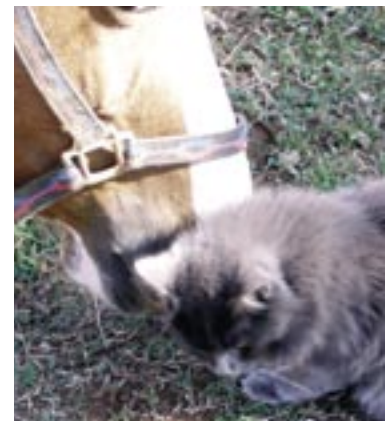
In an emergency please call **01460 66099 at any time 24 hours a day 365 days a year**. If it is out of hours, your call gets put through to our answering service. They will take details such as your name, location of the horse, brief details of the emergency and full contact numbers. They will then contact one of our vets who will phone you to discuss the situation and advise you as to how soon they can be with you if required. Please ensure that someone is by the phone or, if it is a mobile, that you have reception. Please note that our staff, and those of the answering service are trained and understand the stress of an emergency situation.

SMALL ANIMAL CLINICS

In addition to our Equine Clinic, the Isle Veterinary Group has two **Small Animal Clinics**, one at Hinton St George and one at Creech St Michael.

Both have state-of-the-art facilities, 24 hour/365 days a year

emergency service and Saturday appointments. To find out more, please phone the clinic or look at our website.



Contact the clinic for more information or look at our website
www.islevalleyvets.co.uk

Equine Clinic: Eleighwater, Chard, TA20 3AF **Tel: 01460 66099**

Small Animal Clinics: Tetts Farm, West Street, Hinton St George, TA17 8SB **Tel: 01460 73398**
St Michael Road, Creech St Michael, TA3 5DP **Tel: 01823 444234**