



Autumn 2009

ISLE VALLEY EQUINE CLINIC

PREVENTATIVE HEALTHCARE THAT WON'T COST THE EARTH!

FREE ZONE VISITS



Isle Valley Equine

Clinic will be continuing to run its **Free Visit Scheme for routine treatments** such as vaccinations and dentistry. This means that on a regular day each week you can book a visit for routine work and not incur any visit fees. However, in order to keep the visits free we are asking all our clients who have booked a

free visit to pay on the day for the treatments. This way we can cut some of our administration costs and continue to pass this saving on to you. **All visits must be booked no later than 5.00pm the day before the requested visit.** (Appointments are available on a first come - first served basis so book early to avoid disappointment.)

On the morning of your visit the vet covering your area will plan their route ensuring mileage is kept to a minimum.

Clients must phone in between 8am and 9am on the day to find out what time the vet will be with them.

For details of which day is your free visit day simply go to www.islevalleyvets.co.uk or phone 01460 66099.

Please note: *If you require the vet to be with you at a specific time or you wish to book an appointment with a*

*specific vet you must book a normal visit **not** a free visit. Free Visits are for routine treatments only. If you require a vet for lameness, injury or illness then you should book a normal visit. **For further advice please contact the clinic on 01460 66099.***

MUD FEVER

Mud Fever is a simple "cover all" name for dermatitis – skin inflammation – most commonly of the pasterns but it can involve the cannons as well. It is most common in the winter months. Hind legs are most commonly affected and Mud Fever is most often seen on horses living in wet and/or dirty conditions. Some horses are more susceptible than others.



WHAT CAUSES IT?

Mud Fever is caused by a complex variety of agents such as:

- various bacterial species
- fungal and yeast infections
- parasites
- immunological responses
- the body's response to toxins. Wet conditions allow the skin to develop small cracks due to chapping, which allows entry of the causative agents into the skin.

WHAT ARE THE SYMPTOMS?

Signs vary from reddening of the skin to heavy scabbing, swelling, cracks and weeping of the skin. Horses may show no lameness but some can become severely lame if the deeper tissues of the leg become involved. This is called cellulitis.

REDUCING THE RISK TO YOUR HORSE

To reduce the risk of your horse getting Mud Fever, you should:

- Try to keep the legs as dry as possible, but your horse need not be stabled all of the time
- Overnight stabling on clean bedding can help. The legs should be cleaned and dried as well as possible each night
- If your horse is heavily feathered consider clipping to facilitate treatment
- Apply a simple barrier cream before turning out
- Try one of the many remedies on the market. Speak to other horse owners to find out which ones they use. Regular stabling will give you an opportunity to use them.

If your prevention measures do not appear to be working and mud fever develops, contact us to discuss the problem as soon as possible. Early intervention usually gives a faster result and is therefore more cost effective.

TREATMENTS AT THE CLINIC

If you need to bring your horse to the clinic for treatment **please arrive ten minutes before your appointment** to ensure that your horse is ready for the vet/nurse. If possible please ensure your horse is clean and hooves picked out to prevent spread of infection. If your horse is being admitted to the clinic full details of what you need to bring will be provided.

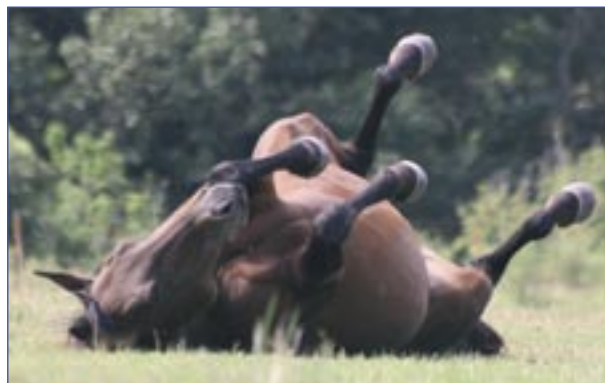
STOP PRESS - NEW PRODUCT FOR THE CONTROL OF SKIN PROBLEMS

Janssen Animal Health have launched a new product called "**Cavalesse**" to help control the problem of skin problems such as sweet-itch. The product is primarily a dietary supplement containing nicotinamide, and the starter pack also includes a topical nicotinamide cream. This compound helps to stabilise the mast cells in the skin that release histamine and cause the irritation in the skin. In trials, 70% of owners were pleased with the results after using Cavalesse. In the case of sweet-itch, the exposure of sensitive horses to the Culicoides midge still

needs to be minimised but a successful response to the supplement should mean a reduction in the use of repellents and fly rugs. The cost for the majority of patients i.e. ponies is just under 80p/day. For horses over 500kg the cost is just over a pound a day.

Please contact the Clinic for further information.

CLIENT EVENINGS: UNDERSTANDING COLIC - DO WE NEED TO PANIC?



An informative evening covering all aspects of colic including detecting the signs of early colic, what to do if your horse has colic, and what to do to prevent colic.

We are delighted to welcome Dr Tim Brazil, Consultant Vet and European Specialist in Equine Internal Medicine who will be presenting this evening's educational talk.

Venue: Seavington Millennium Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Date: Thursday 15 October 2009

CARING FOR THE VETERAN HORSE

As horses get older so their needs change. This client evening will cover issues such as diet and supplements, medical conditions in the older horse, exercise, worming and dental care.

Venue: Seavington Millennium Hall

Time: 7.30pm

Date: Thursday 26 November 2009

Both evenings are free but places are limited so please phone **01460 66099** to reserve your place. Sponsored by Intervet/Schering-Plough. **All welcome!**

Contact the clinic for more information or look at our website
www.islevallvets.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**