

Nantwich Veterinary Clinic Equine Centre

Winter Newsletter 2010

By Rhiannan Holmes

Well, another year has gone by. I can't quite believe we have been here in our new clinic over a year now! I hope you all managed to have some fun with your horses over the summer months but we have now reached the doom and gloom of winter.....and with it the inevitable cold wet and mud!! So we can all safely say our equine friends will be spending longer indoors on.....



.....BOX REST

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new members of our team, our new nurse Elisha Castledine and our yard manager Mark Cornthwaite.

Whether it is because of injury or bad weather similar considerations need to be made when changing management of our horses to total confinement.

- Ventilation – try and ensure stables are well ventilated, keep top doors open or if inside a barn ensure end doors always allow a flow of fresh air. Try and minimise sensitising horses' airways by using dust free bedding, haylage or soaked/steamed hay.
- Feed changes – this includes forage try and be gradual and overlap with mixing of the two feeds. If your horse is to remain stabled for a long time add in a bran mash to his daily diet and feed wet concentrates to try and help prevent colic caused by impactions.
- Remember if your horse is on box rest for an injury and isn't in work his nutritional needs will change. He won't require as much energy and therefore a low calorie feed balancer and increased forage might be required instead of normal concentrates (For further tips on feeding a horse on box rest pick up a TopSpec guide from our practice)
- Don't forget to pick out feet! The incidence of Thrush and Canker is increased in horses on stable confinement. Deep litter bedding is not ideal as although it looks clean on top the horse's feet sink into the wet/dirty bedding underneath, an ideal breeding ground for bacteria. If your horse does have "smelly frogs" speak to one of our vets about what you can do to help.

But one of the most major issues to combat is **BOREDOM**. Boredom can lead to unwanted behaviours such as box walking, crib biting and wind sucking as well as just a change in your horse's character even depression. It is up to us to provide suitable stimulation to try and minimise this stress. This can be helped by providing some kind of companionship be it a stable mate next door or if that's not possible, playing the radio or placing a mirror on the stable wall.

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Why not buy a lickit for your horse for xmas? Call in for offers

Spending time grooming and fussing our horses are also very important to keep their coat and skin healthy and promote relaxation.

Toys such as licks or balls hanging from the ceiling provide some focus for them. Swedes or turnips make good alternatives to commercial available molassed licks. Also try double netting hay and placing nets in more than one area of the stable this.

Salt licks, Lickits and Boredom Breakers are now available at NVG Equine Centre at very competitive prices, call in or see website for prices.



Remember....Small redworm larvae become buried and dormant in the gut wall over winter. There are only 2 products effective at killing these

1 – *Equest* and 2 – *Panacur 5 Day Equine Guard*

So be sure to worm overwinter with one of these products to prevent serious illness from “en masse” emergence of the larvae in spring.

HEALTH PACKAGE

Why not treat your horse to a winter MOT?

Allow us to visit and do a thorough clinical exam including blood sample and worm egg count to detect any underlying problems you can't see. Dental examination and teeth rasp to ensure their mouth is in tip top health, to prevent any weight loss overwinter.

All this for £102.18 includes local visit

Events

Campbells Lecture Series

A big thank you to all those who attended the extremely successful sell out series of lectures Campbell Thompson held in conjunction with British Dressage over the autumn months.

Foaling – what to expect and when to worry!

The third in the reproduction lectures by Rhiannan Holmes to be held in January 2011, actual date TBC so watch this space.

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