

We Are Now Castrating Colts Again

Now that the fly season is over, we are resuming surgical castration of colts. If the vet has already checked over your colt and confirmed both testicles are present and normal, you can book in for castration now. If you're unsure as to whether both of his testicles have descended then it's advisable that we come out to check before booking in for castration. We recommend that colts have their primary course of tetanus vaccinations before they are gelded. Please make sure your colt is used to being handled and wearing a headcollar before booking. When you call to book him in for castration we'll send you an information sheet containing advice about preparation for the procedure, the operation itself and post castration aftercare.

We usually carry out castration with the colt standing (but heavily sedated). Stallions over the age of 3, donkeys and miniature ponies are better castrated under general anaesthetic due to an increased risk of blood loss (stallions and donkeys) or impracticality (miniature ponies). If your stallion, miniature pony or donkey requires castrating we have an information sheet with detailed advice about the options available to you. This can be downloaded from our website or sent out to you on request.



Beware of Sycamore Poisoning

Autumn is the time of year to be aware of the risk of Seasonal Pasture Myopathy (SPM), commonly known as sycamore poisoning. Sycamore seeds contain hypoglycin, a toxin causing highly fatal muscle disease. There has been a large increase in the number of reported cases over the past two years.

To reduce the risk of your horse becoming a victim, we suggest:

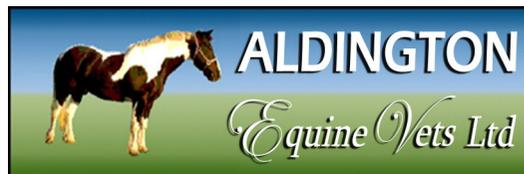
- Identify Sycamore Trees near pastures .
- Restrict access to seeds using temporary fencing or move to clean pasture (Remember seeds can travel large distances in strong winds).
- The risk is higher for hungry horses on bare pasture so provide supplementary feed but don't leave hay on wet ground.
- Avoid felling trees as this can further contaminate the pasture.



Half Price Visit Dates for Dec, Jan & Feb

On the dates below, visits are £19. **To qualify as half price, visits must be booked at least two days in advance and take place between 9am and 4pm. It is not possible to specify a particular vet for your half price visit. Days book up well in advance and are allocated on a first come first served basis.** An additional mileage charge applies if over 20 miles away. Please see our website for details.

Dec	Jan	Feb	Area	Postcode of Stables
13 th & 23 rd	10 th & 24 th	14 th & 28 th	Darwen, Tockholes, Huddlesden	BB3
1 st & 16 th	5 th & 20 th	2 nd & 17 th	Accrington, Oswaldtwistle, Church, Huncoat	BB5
19 th	16 th	20 th	Ribble Valley West (Mellor, Clayton le Dale)	BB2
14 th	11 th	8 th	Ribble Valley East (Clitheroe, Gisburn)	BB7
12 th & 28 th	9 th & 27 th	13 th & 24 th	Burnley, Brierfield, Barrowford, Briercliffe,	BB9, BB10, BB11, BB12
20 th & 30 th	17 th & 30 th	10 th & 21 st	Rawtenstall, Haslingden, Waterfoot, Rossendale	BB4
7 th	4 th	1 st	Great Harwood, Rishton, Clayton-le-Moors, Blackburn	BB6, BB1
15 th	19 th	16 th	East Preston	PR3
2 nd	3 rd	7 th	Ramsbottom, Edenfield, Bury and Rochdale	BL0, BL9 / 8 OL11/13
29 th	25 th	22 nd	Blackpool – North of River Ribble and South of River Wyre	PR4, FY3, FY4, FY8
21 st	18 th	15 th	Chorley and Samesbury	PR6 & PR5



Winter Newsletter 2016

Merry Christmas and A Happy & Healthy 2017 !



BE SAFE BE SEEN

Now the winter is drawing in, and the nights are getting longer it is far more important to make sure you are visible especially when riding on the roads. Please think about you and your horse's safety when riding out and ideally ride during the day when it is light and you are more likely to be seen. There are plenty of products out there from hi-viz vests and jackets for yourself to flashing lights and reflective rugs for your horse and things to put on your tack. Just one of these items will help you be seen. The British Horse Society (BHS) has a campaign to be safe and be seen. They have produced a rider safety guide and one for road users to ensure everyone stays safe on the highways. We have all seen, thanks to social media and the raised awareness, many incidents involving horses on the road and in some unfortunate circumstances people and horses have been killed. Please don't let it be one of you. Be safe.

Be seen.



Office Hours:
8.30am to 5.30pm
Saturdays: 9am to 12pm

01254 888600
24 hour Emergency Cover



www.equine-vet.co.uk

A Message From Adam

I'm sure many will already know that I have finished working with Aldington Vets, and wanted to apologise to those I did not get a chance to let know personally before my departure. I've just completed the hectic job of moving out of my Lancashire home... and into the area south of York



I made the difficult decision to move across the border to Yorkshire, but will miss Lancashire and everyone I got to know during my time with Aldingtons - even back from when I joined as a locum in 2007. Then starting a few months later working at Aldingtons was my first full time job, and Ally, David and the team over the years have looked after me well. I have had a chance to thank David and all the staff at Aldingtons, but wanted to thank all the owners and horses who have made my time here unforgettable. Lots of whom I have known for many years now.

I'm looking forward to life in Yorkshire and wanted to wish you all the best for the future, and let you know that I have left you in safe hands with a good team looking after you all. I'll still be in touch with Aldingtons sorting out any queries that need help when handing cases over, but I'm sure that David, Rob and Chelsea, (plus another vet who is being sought at the moment) will look after you well into the future. **Adam x**

The Importance of Accurate Dosing with Wormers

The number of worms in the UK which have become resistant to wormers is constantly increasing. To help reduce the risk of resistance at your stables, we recommend strategic worming using worm egg counts rather than interval dosing with a wormer. The only time we recommend giving a wormer without testing first is in November, when Equest Pramox is used to treat for bots, encysted small redworms and tapeworms. When dosing with any wormer, it's very important to give the correct amount. A recent survey showed that 44% of owners do not weigh their horse before worming. Under dosing can increase chance of resistance developing and may well fail to kill all the worms present. If resistant worms are present, the wormer kills only the sensitive ones, leaving the resistant ones to continue to produce eggs and gradually increase the population of resistant worms.

You can test for resistance using worm egg counts before and after dosing with a wormer. If you have a worm egg count done (at the standard charge of £12) prior to worming, we can arrange a re-test within 10 days after worming for only the cost of postage (£2.50). If resistance is found to a particular wormer, you should avoid using the same type of wormer (same active ingredient) at any time in the future.



Survey on Equine Preventive Healthcare

Some of you will have seen the results of the recent Horse and Hound survey which seemed to highlight a lack of knowledge among many horse owners on preventive healthcare:

- Only 37% knew you could vaccinate for strangles
- Only 53% said their horses dental checks were done at least once a year
- Only 55% picked out their horse's feet at least once a day

The survey also found a widespread lack of proper worm control programmes (using strategic worming and egg counts)

Part of our Mission Statement at Aldington Equine Vets is to "Keep our patients Happy and Healthy" and we have always encouraged a high standard of preventive healthcare so the survey results are concerning to us. To help all our clients with preventive healthcare, we provide a range of information sheets on common ailments and conditions, we offer free of charge dental checks and a dental reminder service for all our patients and we are happy to provide advice and information on feeding and all aspects of preventive healthcare. We can issue a health check report form on request after your horse's annual check up and vaccination, including an assessment of condition score, weigh tape weight and any suggestions for improving healthcare.



Reducing the risk of colic

During autumn and early winter we often see an increase in the number of colic cases due to necessary changes in the management of horses at this time year. Here are a few practical tips on how to reduce the risk of your horse suffering an episode of colic:

- Always have clean, fresh water available. This is particularly important in freezing conditions. Removing access to water for only a few hours can greatly increase their risk of colic.
- Allow as much pasture turnout as possible. Horses at pasture are less likely to suffer colic than those kept inside. If winter turnout is not available, try to reduce pasture access slowly over a period of 2-4 weeks before stabling full time.
- Avoid feeding too much pelleted feed in one go. Bucket feeds with a high energy content (such as Conditioning Cubes) can increase the risk of colic if large amounts are fed in one go.
- Make changes to diet gradually. When introducing any change in diet such as a new bucket feed, mix ¼ of the new feed with ¾ of the old feed for 1 week, then ½ and ½ the next week until eventually the horse is eating only the new feed. Observe closely for 2 weeks after any changes in diet, housing or turnout are made.
- Regular dental checks are important. Horses with normal healthy teeth are better able to chew hay and haylage effectively and are less likely to get impaction colic.
- Control parasites. Horses with a low burden of intestinal parasites have a lower risk of colic than those with a high burden. We recommend worm egg counts for roundworms and saliva testing / blood sampling / interval dosing for tapeworm.

REACT Campaign

The University of Nottingham have teamed up with the British Horse Society (BHS) in a five year study in order to assist horse owners in identifying colic and when to call a vet. The research published revealed that "colic accounts for one in three emergency veterinary call outs. At least one in ten of these cases may be critical, and up to 80% of these critical cases result in death or the horse being euthanised." More details of the study can be found on the Nottingham University website.

The study has come up with an easy to remember acronym to help spot early signs of colic:

- **R** – Restless or agitated
- **E** – Eating less or dropping reduced
- **A** – Abdominal pain
- **C** – Clinical changes
- **T** – Tired or lethargic



For more information please visit www.bhs.org.uk/colic where there is a wealth of information and leaflets designed to provide more information and prepare horse owners should your horse become affected.

Small Change to Our Reminder Service

To make the service a little more efficient and give all of you the best possible chance of securing an appointment on the day provisionally offered on your card, we will no longer be pre-booking a specific time slot for your appointment so your reminder card will just include the date. Please contact us as soon as possible after you receive the reminder card so we can confirm an appointment on the scheduled date and arrange a suitable time. We hope that this method will allow more of our clients to take advantage of appointments on our half price visit days.

May we also take this opportunity to remind our clients that the recall service is a courtesy one and it is still the responsibility of all owners to be aware when their horses vaccinations are due.