



## Help us keep you informed

In May 2018 new legislation will come into effect which means we require permission from you as soon as possible for us to contact you electronically. You will be asked to complete a form either by your vet or when you pop into the branch.

If you do not wish to be contacted electronically (text and email) this may result in not receiving notifications regarding your horse's healthcare. This is because it will affect how we notify you for vaccine reminders, updates and appointments. This form is also available to complete on our website. We would be very grateful if you could find the time to complete it as soon as possible to help us with this mammoth task!



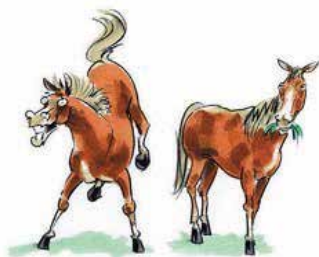
## Look! Great Spring Offers at Milbourn!



### Spring Time Worming

Now is the time to bring us a poo sample to see how effective your worming programme is. Depending on the results your horse may need treating for roundworm alongside their six monthly tape wormer. Why not take out our worming plan for only £37? See our website for more information.

### Castration Clinic - 4th April at our Ashford Clinic in Sevington



Now is the perfect time of year to castrate your colts...Take advantage of this great reduced price offer of £180.

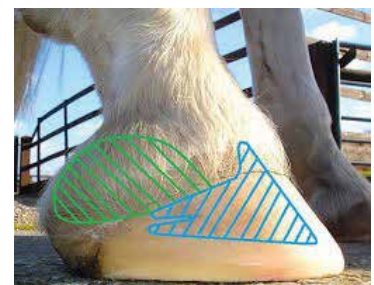
Please call 01233 500505 to book Colts must be 2 years old or under and both testicles must be present and correct!

If unsure please book a £10 Zone Visit and pre-castrate examination (£40) prior to the 4th April just to check.

### April

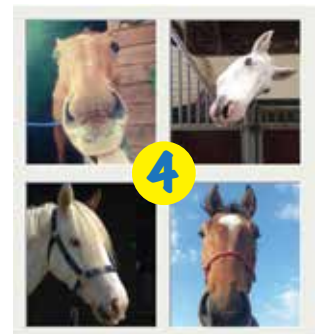
Pre Season Foot Balance Package - Hoof imbalance is one of the most common problems associated with lameness. Uneven pressure of the foot can lead to lameness and could affect your horse's competition season.

Take advantage of our special offer throughout April  
£150 inc VAT for 4 foot X-rays and examination



### May

Four Or More? If we visit 4 or more horses at the same location for vaccination, dental work or an examination throughout May we won't charge a visit fee. Please mention this at the time of booking.





## Thinking of Breeding from your Mare?

We are always here to help so please do call us for advice on how to go about breeding from your mare. We can help advise on whether Natural covering or Artificial Insemination is more suitable, what reproductive options are available and when to scan your mare.

Artificial Insemination (A.I) is a technique used to transfer semen from a stallion into the uterus of a mare during the correct stage of her oestrus cycle. A.I has become very popular in stud medicine for the advantages that it offers compare to natural covering (though not allowed in racing thoroughbreds), but, as much as it's exciting breeding from your own mare, it's important to understand how it works and the pros and cons before deciding to take this route. For further information and pricing please see our website.

### What are the advantages of A.I?

- You can choose a stallion that is competing without interrupting his schedule
- Allows you to choose the best stallion for your mare from all around the world and too far away to make natural covering viable
- You can choose a stallion of which semen was frozen before his death or castration
- Improve bloodlines for a rare breed also encouraging its geographical spread
- Reduce risk of breeding injuries to both the mare and the stallion
- More disease control by preventing skin contact such as in natural service and also by checking the stallion with swabs for Contagious Equine Metritis (CEM) and blood test for Equine Viral Arteritis (EVA) and Equine Infectious Anaemia (EIA) every year before the semen collection
- Permits use of valuable stallions and mare with breeding problems
- Allows mares to be bred at the best time for conception
- Permits evaluation of semen at each collection and immediate recognition of minor changes in seminal quality.

### What are the disadvantages of A.I?

- Cost
- AI with chilled or frozen semen generally has a lower conception rate (chance of producing an embryo) than natural covering
- Risk to the mare when performing rectal examinations
- Like for natural covering, AI does not always result in a live foal the following year.

### Semen presentation

Management of the mare and timing of insemination will be determined by which semen is chosen (fresh, chilled or frozen) but it is also very important to check in which of the three ways the semen is preserved best and travels best for the specific stallion.

### Pre-breeding check

Prior to embarking on an A.I. program it is important the mare is examined to ensure that she is fit to breed and asses for factors that may reduce fertility. The pre-breeding check, best if performed safely in stocks, consist of a physical examination to evaluate vulval conformation, a rectal examination to check the cervix for any abnormalities and ultrasound scan to look for uterine cysts and to see at what stage of the cycle the mare is. At this time we will also be able to take clitoral swabs and, if required by the stud, to do blood tests to check your mare is free of venereal disease.

### Timing the insemination

Mares cycle between February and October (cycles at the beginning and the end of the season can be very irregular) and have a 21-22 day cycle, with oestrus (the receptive period) lasting 3-6 days. To have a successful insemination resulting in pregnancy it's important to place the semen in the uterus when the mare cycles regularly and at the correct stage of the cycle, so when she is in season and close to ovulation. Signs of oestrus in the mare include tail raising, opening and closing of the vulva (winking), frequent posturing and urination and some may, also, become anxious, aggressive, sensitive around their flanks and reluctant to work, though can be difficult to detect and irregularly shown. Ultrasound scans of the ovaries and uterus allows detection of the stage of the cycle and, measuring the size of follicle, we can predict when the mare is coming close to ovulation and inject her with drugs that induce it.

The best time to inseminate varies with the type of semen used: for fresh and chilled, AI need to be done within 12-24 hours of ovulation whereas for frozen AI it needs to be done within 6 hours of ovulation, which means a greater number of scans are required both during day and night.

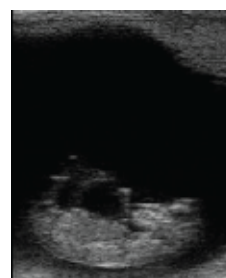
### Pregnancy Diagnosis

The most appropriate time to determine the pregnancy is between days 14 and 16 following ovulation through a transrectal ultrasound. At this time it's very important to check for multiple pregnancies and, if necessary, deal with it before the embryo becomes attached to the lining of the uterus and makes it difficult to "squash" the twin.

A further scan around 28 days to check the normal development by identification of the foal's heartbeat is advised. This also reduces the risk of missing detection of a twin pregnancy. If the mare is not pregnant then she should go back in season again allowing the program to be repeated, hopefully, with a more favourable outcome.



14-16 days  
embryonic vesicle



2-3 month  
pregnancy scan

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