



VETERINARY DEDICATION, CARE AND TRUST

MILBOURN

EQUINE VETS

Ashford Hawkhurst Rye Canterbury
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Straight from the Horse's mouth

Eye Injuries- What to look for

By Stephanie Chapman BVSc, MRCVS

Those big soft eyes; whether they're brown or even blue, we all love to stare into them. However, being so large has its disadvantages, as our horses' eyes can be prone to injury. Whether it's to get that last little nibble of grass on the other side of the fence, or while out riding and hacking, traumatic or penetrating injuries can occur and sometimes without us noticing it straight away.

The most common and obvious to the "naked eye" include eyelid lacerations. Usually the upper lid is most involved, but all lacerations are extremely important to repair without delay to avoid further damage to the eye itself. Depending on the extent of injury, your veterinarian will most likely need to stitch the eyelid. Another evident injury is blunt trauma to the eye. Your horse may present with just a swollen eyelid, but the key is not to panic! Call your vet to have them examine the extent of injury through the layers of the eye. Other injuries may not be so apparent. Scratches or damage to the surface of the eyes can easily become infected and create corneal ulcers, which in turn can progress to severe scarring or rupture.

Signs to look out for painful eyes include:

- **Avoiding bright light (standing at the back of the stable for example), or excessive squinting**
- **Closed eyes, with tear production**
- **Discolouration of the eye**
- **Swelling or redness of the eye**
- **White to yellow discharge from the eye**

Your vet will want to examine the eye in a dark stable, with a calm and well-restrained patient, therefore sedation may be heavily indicated. Nerve blocks may also be required to relax the eyelids and allow for a more thorough examination. In addition, a special dye called fluorescein can be used to search for damage to the surface layer of the eye, by staining them in bright green.

Treatment can range from daily management routines to immediate referral for further diagnostics and/or surgery. Medical treatment will usually consist of anti-inflammatory drugs to help reduce the pain, as well as eye drops to administer multiple times a day. Atropine eye drops will help to dilate your horse's pupil and therefore help with pain relief. Antibiotic drops or ointment may be required to fight off any infections. Although it may be onerous, it is very important to stick to the regular daily administration of these medications. Finally, horses should be kept in a dark stable, preferably in a low-dust environment.

With a combination of early recognition, rapid assessment and the appropriate treatment, eye injuries can have very successful outcomes. Communicating with your vet is key, and soon enough you'll both be back cantering head on into the sunset!



Season's Greetings

Milbourn Equine would like to wish all our clients a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

Stop Press: Keep your eyes on our website for details of our **EQUINE HEALTHCARE PLAN launching 2016**

WINTER HEALTH HAZARDS!

Be on the look out for **Rain Scald, Foot Abscesses, Azoturia (Tying Up) and Mud Fever (Pastern Dermatitis)**. See our website for further details.

Christmas Opening Hours at Milbourn Equine

Thursday 24th December - Close at 2pm
 Friday 25th - Monday 28th December - Emergency calls only
 Thursday 31st December - Close at 5pm
 Friday 1st - Sunday 3rd January - Emergency calls only



www.milbournequine.co.uk



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Strange veterinary hoof terms explained...

KERATOMA

A **keratoma** is a type of benign tumour that grows inside the foot. It originates from the horn producing cells, usually underneath the coronet, and grows down the foot with the normal hoof. When they reach the white line area at the toe, they cause separation of the bond between the hoof wall and sole. Once bacteria penetrate the foot, an abscess forms. The abscess is usually associated with a widening of the white line. An x-ray or MRI scan is needed to confirm the presence of a Keratoma. An underlying keratoma will always cause the abscess to recur. The cause is unknown but can be associated with chronic irritation or trauma.



QUITTOR

Quittor is a chronic, septic condition of one of the collateral cartilages of the pedal bone 5. Characterized by necrosis of the lateral cartilage of the foot and one or more sinus tracts extending from the diseased cartilage through the skin in the coronary band region. This results in the formulation of purulent fistulas that open above the coronet, usually resulting in lameness. It is seldom encountered today but was common in working draft horses in the past, usually following injury to the area.



THRUSH & CANKER

Thrush is a common bacterial/fungal infection which affects the frog and sole of the foot, producing malodorous, black necrotic material particularly in the grooves between the frog and the sole (frog sulci). If left untreated, it can affect deeper structures within the foot. It is most commonly seen in horses kept in damp conditions or through poor hygiene. However, it can occur in horses kept in a clean environment, if the frog is overgrown.



Canker is a disease affecting the soles characterised by a foul smelling creamy exudate. Canker is similar, but a more serious condition than thrush. Although it is rare, unlike thrush it can be difficult to solve. It is a severe bacterial/fungal infection (proliferative pododermatitis) that generally originates in the frog, and affects the heels, horn and underlying structures of the hoof. The clinical signs are the development of a foul-smelling white/grey pus in and around the frog and the presence of granulation-like tissue which often bleeds. Lameness is often variable depending upon the depth of structures involved.

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Petplan Veterinary Awards



Nominations are now open for these awards, nominations can be made online via www.petplan.co.uk/vetawards. Nominations close 31st January 2016. Categories include Vet, Vet Nurse, Practice Manager and Support Staff, as well as Practice of the Year. **If we have exceeded your expectations please don't hesitate to vote for Milbourn Equine!**

Gastroscope Clinic Dates

Benenden – 16

December, 20 January, 17 February

Sevington – 1 December, 5 January, 2 February
Take advantage of our first scope promotion at these clinics - £95.00

Winter Health Checks

Treat your horse to a health check this winter and ensure they are in tip-top condition for the winter months, ideal for the competition horse, veteran or happy hacker. This covers a full clinical examination of heart, lungs, skin, eyes, teeth & action, a blood sample is taken to test your horse's internal organs and a faecal sample is tested for worms. **A great opportunity to discuss any queries you have about your horse health or performance. £95 inc VAT (Visit fee not included, can be performed on a zone visit).**

RCVS Practice Standard Accreditation – What it means to our clients

Milbourn Equine are proud to be an accredited equine practice, this means we undergo regular rigorous inspections by RCVS to ensure we are offering our clients, both four legged and two legged the best possible service, this covers everything from clinical governance to practice hygiene, record keeping, prescription and medicine services.

There are sometimes reports in the equine press of veterinary surgeons being struck off for compromising their probity, our accreditation means we operate in a truly ethical way at all times, whether vetting, vaccinating or dispensing drugs to our clients horses.

Stuck for last minute stocking fillers?

Treat your horse to a Milbourn Equine First Aid kit, Gift voucher or Veterinary Supplement. See website for details

