

Straight from the  
Horse's mouth

MILBOURN  
EQUINE VETS

# Newsletter

Dedication, Care and Trust

Winter 2017

We would like to wish everyone a very  
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Online Ordering

Online ordering is now available for all medications and supplies. Please can we request that you allow 24 hours notice for requesting medication aswell as wormers and supplies. This allows us enough time for the vet to authorise the supply and for us to ensure we have enough in stock for you. Visit our website to find out more.

## Free Wall Planner



Pick up your FREE Milbourn Equine 2018 Wall Planner from Reception at our Hawkhurst or Ashford branch or ask your vet when they visit. Only available while stocks last!

## Christmas Vouchers

Stuck for a stocking filler? Milbourn Equine Gift Vouchers are available to purchase at your local branch.

## Christmas Opening Times

We sincerely hope you do not require our services over the festive period but if you do need us as always we will be available for any emergencies. We are open as usual except:  
25th December - Emergencies only  
26th December - Emergencies only  
1st January - Emergencies only

## What's on your Horse's Christmas list this year?

Why not make it our Equine Healthcare Plan. **For only £13.50 a month** it provides your horse with 2 health checks a year, annual vaccinations and membership to our worming programme. Additional discounts are also available for dental work, worming products and supplements. Our plan allows you the opportunity to spread the cost of your horse's routine healthcare over the year and will save you money!

## Petplan Veterinary Awards

Nominations are now open for these awards and can be made online via [www.petplan.co.uk/Vetawards](http://www.petplan.co.uk/Vetawards). Nominations close 12th January 2018. 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!!



## Winner of Milbourn Equine Client Survey Voucher

The lucky winner of our Client Survey draw for 2017 is Odette O'Loughlin who receives a £25 voucher to spend on our services.

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[www.milbournequine.co.uk](http://www.milbournequine.co.uk)





## Caring for Older Horses

More and more horses and ponies are living for longer and becoming geriatrics (defined as aged 20 years and over). As a horse ages it is important to monitor for certain health problems which are commonly seen in an ageing population.

**Dental problems** - These are common and may manifest as difficulty with the bit, reduced appetite, weight loss or headshaking. Six monthly dental checks are recommended for horses over 15 years old. Milbourn Equine can check teeth as part of the health check at your horse's annual vaccination, and we are happy to perform any dental work that may be required.

**Lameness** - Low grade lameness is to be expected as osteoarthritis sets in; this is often put down to 'stiffness'. Most of these conditions can be improved with treatment after the lameness is localised to a particular joint or area.

**PPID/Cushings** - Older horses (especially ponies) commonly develop PPID (Pituitary Pars Intermedia Dysfunction) also known as Equine Cushing's disease. The clinical signs include a curly coat, recurrent laminitis, a 'pot bellied' appearance, lethargy and recurrent infections. This condition is treatable once it has been definitively diagnosed with a blood test. More information can be found at [www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk](http://www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk).

**Condition** - Many older horses struggle to maintain their condition, especially over the winter months. If weight loss is sudden or dramatic we will investigate to rule out concurrent disease. However often a change in diet is all that is necessary. Horses become less efficient at extracting nutrients from their feed as they age. It is important to maintain fibre content even if the horse is struggling to eat hay or haylage. A hay replacement diet can be created with chaff, sugar beet and soaked pony nuts. We can advise you or put you in touch with a nutritionist if you feel your horse would benefit from a dietary change. Older horses and ponies struggle more with extremes of weather than their younger friends. However they generally benefit from the low grade exercise that turnout provides and would stiffen up if kept indoors for long periods. Therefore we recommend that they remain turned out but with the benefit of good rugs and a field shelter, in all but the most extreme weather conditions. This time of year you should also be on the lookout for Mud Fever and Colic in horses of any age.

**Mud Fever** - Is a condition of the skin on the lower legs which typically occurs during wet weather in horses who are turned out. It is a bacterial infection caused by a particular bacteria called Dermatophilus which live within the mud. As with many things, prevention is better than cure! Removing mud from the horse's legs is important. The best way to remove mud is to allow the legs to dry and then to brush the mud away with a dandy brush. An oil based barrier cream such as Vaseline can be applied to legs before turn out. Checking your horse's legs on a daily basis can allow you to intervene and instigate treatment of mud fever at the first sign.

**Colic** - At this time of year colic signs are common, especially when there is snow on the ground and the horses are suddenly exposed to a dramatic change in management. Prevention is not always possible however trying to keep the horses management similar regardless of weather conditions helps. Making a gradual change to hay or haylage in the autumn and maintaining the horse on the same brand or batch of long stem forage is helpful. If snow curtails your exercise plans be sure to reduce the hard food that you are providing to the horse, continuing on high levels of hard feed when the horse is doing no exercise will often lead to tying up.

**Don't forget about Worming** - Every horse should receive a larvicidal dose of roundwormer such as moxidectin in the late autumn/early winter. Most other wormers will not kill encysted roundworms and therefore the horse can colic as a result of encysted larvae despite having received a wormer. Please contact us for advice. Our Equine Healthcare Plan includes our worming programme as standard. Make sure your horse is in tip top condition this winter. **Winter Healthchecks - Only £97.50 inc VAT**