



# MILBOURN EQUINE VETS

Spring Newsletter 2015

www.milbournequine.co.uk

## STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

### TAPEWORM SALIVA TEST

By Howard Newitt  
BVetMed, CertEP, MRCVS

We are pleased to launch the Equisal Tapeworm saliva test which complements the worm egg counts that we currently offer to provide a complete worming assessment for your horse.

Traditional worm counts do not detect tapeworm infestation and to date we have relied upon a blood test to detect the presence of tapeworms. The advantage of the Equisal test is that it is performed with a swab of saliva taken from the horse's mouth which is much quicker and less invasive than a blood test. The Equisal test has been shown to have very similar effectiveness as the blood test in detecting the presence of tapeworms.

The procedure is simple and full instructions are provided in the kit which is now available from us. A swab is inserted into the mouth where the bit normally goes, then placed into a collection tube which is then posted to the laboratory by the owner for analysis. The result is returned to the practice and your vet will contact you with advice for treatment if required.

The test is best carried out a minimum of four months after the last test saliva test or tapeworm treatment and so we would recommend testing twice yearly in March & September. We recommend testing rather than blanket treatment for tapeworms to reduce the development of resistance to the medicines used to treat them. The cost is £17.96 per horse.



Keep your  
Horse smiling  
this spring!



### EQUINE DENTAL PROMOTION

Milbourn Equine are offering a **£5 discount** (per horse) on teeth rasping during March and April 2015. New prices including discount: Rasp Teeth £37.00 or £31.50 if carried out at the same time as a vaccination (plus sedation, if required). Don't forget teeth can be checked and rasped on Zone Visits.

### Petplan Vet Awards

Congratulations to everyone at Milbourn Equine Vets especially David McDonald and Reuben Whittaker who have received nominations for the Vet of the Year category. Milbourn Equine Vets have also received a nomination for Practice of the Year category. Thank you to everyone who nominated and we will keep our fingers crossed!

### Would you like a **Free £200 Client Voucher** to use for the treatment of your horse?

Milbourn Equine are delighted to have an association with Barretts Land Rover and Jaguar. They are offering Milbourn Equine clients a £200 credit voucher towards their vet bills. All you have to do is buy a new or used car from Barretts Land Rover or Jaguar and produce proof that you are a client of Milbourn Equine.

Call **01233 500505** for further details. Terms & Conditions apply



## STRAIGHT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

### VETTINGS

By Howard Newitt  
BVetMed, CertEP, MRCVS

Buying a horse is both an exciting and nerve wracking time and we recommend a pre-purchase vetting to help reduce some of the risks associated with the potential purchase!

Pre-purchase vettings are intended to provide the buyer with enough information to decide whether the horse will meet their needs as contrary to popular belief, they are not a simple pass/fail. A pre-purchase vetting is not a lifetime guarantee of soundness but a risk assessment of that horse on the day which will hopefully show up any potential future issues.

There is a saying that any horse can be sold, you just need to find the right buyer and the right price...the pre-purchase vetting will detect abnormalities in most horses but the question is whether they will be significant for the intended use of the horse. This is where a good conversation with your vet is important so that he/she understands what you intend to do with the horse and can then best advise you on the significance of any findings. It is important that you mention anything that concerned you when trying the horse as the horse may not reproduce it when the vet is watching!

The examination consists of five stages which incorporate an examination at rest, moving in hand and usually ridden exercise. Young or unbroken horses may only have a restricted or two stage examination which does not involve a ridden assessment.

#### Should you have x-rays, endoscopy etc. at the vetting?

X-rays are commonly taken for insurance requirements for horses valued over £10,000. Your vet may recommend x-rays if there are concerns regarding a particular joint during the examination. If you are buying the horse to produce and sell on then x-rays may be taken to ensure that there are no problems such as bone chips which may be detected at a subsequent vetting.

It should be remembered that x-rays only show bone changes so for example, just because a horse has clean foot x-rays does not mean that it cannot go lame in the feet due to a soft tissue injury. Endoscopy of the upper airways may be performed if the horse makes an abnormal breathing noise at exercise (whistle) or if the horse is intended for strenuous pursuits such as racing or eventing.

Keep an eye on our website, Facebook and Twitter pages for more details on our forthcoming

**Client Evening** at our Ashford clinic on Wednesday 22nd April at 7pm covering **Dentistry and Worming**. Spaces limited, please call to book seats: 01233 500505.

#### Strange veterinary terms explained ... 'Whistling & Roaring'



The terms 'Whistler' and 'Roarer' are used to describe horses which make an abnormal respiratory noise during exercise. The noise is heard during inspiration (i.e. breathing in) and may be anything from a high-pitched soft whistle to a harsh 'roar'.

### Springtime Health Hazards

Each season has the potential for different health problems for your horse. As always at this time of year owners should be on the look out for LAMINITIS, SWEETITCH, SUNBURN, COLIC & HEADSHAKING. It is now also thought that **ATYPICAL MYOPATHY** can be a danger in the spring (as well as Autumn) due to the foliage of sycamore seedlings becoming tempting when the grazing is sparse after the winter months. We would advise fencing off any sycamore trees and ensuring adequate forage is always available.

### Breeding from your Mare this year?

We are offering

# 10% off

all EHV vaccines for mares.

The reduced price is now £38.25

We are pleased to welcome a new addition to the Milbourn team...

Chris Shepherd  
BVM&S, BSc  
(Hons), MSc,  
MRCVS, Veterinary Surgeon



Chris qualified from Edinburgh University in 2009 and initially worked in large animal practice in Aberdeen before moving to The Liphook Equine Hospital. Chris specialises in lameness workups and is also particularly interested in infectious diseases and their control (he has an MSc in Veterinary Infectious Disease and Control from Liverpool University). He is currently undertaking a certificate in advanced veterinary practice. When not at work Chris enjoys riding and looking after his 5 horses and competing in Carriage Driving.

Follow us on:

