



Spring 2020

MILBOURN
EQUINE VETS



Newsletter

Dedication, Care and Trust

Vets Out & About!

Our vets will be attending and providing their veterinary services at lots of key eventing dates this year so keep an eye out for us. We look forward to seeing you.

Charing Point to Point (Ashford Valley Tickham) 11 April

Aldington Point to Point 13 April

Chilham Castle BE Trials 18-19 April

Wye Ride (East Kent Ride) 19 April

Chilham Castle International Trials 25-26 July

Gastroscope Clinic Dates for 2020

Milbourn Equine offer twice monthly gastroscope clinics where you can book in to bring your horse along for a gastroscope at a reduced price.

Bodiam Dates:

These are arranged through the Hawkhurst branch and take place at Bodiam - Bodiam International Arena, Court Lodge Farm, Bodiam Robertsbridge, East Sussex TN32 5UJ

- 25th March
- 29th April
- 27th May
- 24th June
- 29th July
- 26th August
- 30th September
- 28th October
- 25th November
- 16th December

Sevington Dates (These take place at our Ashford clinic):

- 7th April
- 5th May
- 2nd June
- 7th July
- 4th August
- 1st September
- 6th October
- 3rd November
- 1st December



Sanne soon off on her Adventure!

Our lovely vet Sanne is off to drive a Rickshaw through Sri Lanka without back up or a route to raise money for Cool Earth; a charity that helps local indigenous people to stop deforestation of the rainforest! Please show your support by sponsoring her <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/wottlebottle>



Did you know we stock EquiSal Tapeworm kits?

We recommend worming against tapeworm in March and September. We do strongly advise that you test for tapeworm first to check if worming is required to reduce the development of resistance to the medicines used to treat them. It must be done using either an EquiSal Tapeworm Test or a blood test.

EquiSal uses saliva that you collect yourself. It is very easy to use. The test tells you if you need to worm for tapeworm or not and then only worm your horse if it has a burden. Simply incorporate tapeworm testing every six months into your targeted worming programme. To find out more and how to join our Equine Healthcare Plan to receive discounts on your worming treatments, tapeworm testing and worm egg counts please see our website.



Welcome to Martina!

We would like to welcome our new vet Martina to our team at Milbourn. Martina graduated in 2017 from the University of Murcia in Spain. She has been gaining experience in different equine hospitals in Ireland, Belgium and Denmark including an internship at the University of Liège in Belgium. A road trip around the UK made her fall in love with the country and she moved to Kent to join us. In her free time she loves travelling, cooking, hiking and spending time with her friends and family.



Chosen Charities 2020

We are proud to be supporting both of these fantastic local charities throughout 2020.

To see more of the amazing work they do and how to donate, please visit their websites:

www.chalkdownstaplehurst-rda.co.uk and their Facebook page @ChalkdownRDA

Registered charity number 1174554

www.rdawoodchurch.co.uk and their Facebook page @WDGRDA

You can also donate directly to their Local Giving page at

<https://localgiving.org/charity/woodchurch-driving-group-rda/>

Registered charity number 1074411



Ashford
01233 500505

Hawkhurst
01580 752301

Rye
01797 208128

Canterbury
01227 200992

www.milbournequine.co.uk



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The Importance of Dental Checks

Dental health is very important for your horse. It is often underestimated how it can have a negative effect on their well-being. Horses' teeth are hard wearing and continue to erupt in the mouth for most of their life. In nature, the animals would be chewing rough fibre for over 18 hours a day which helps to wear their teeth evenly, but we have modified our horses' life by keeping them in stables and replacing part of their daily food ration with concentrate, which in turn reduces their normal chewing activity. These factors can result in abnormal wearing of the teeth and sharp edges forming, causing discomfort and eating problems.

Prevention is better than cure! Equine dentistry has historically been undertaken in a reactive manner when there are advanced problems, rather than trying to identify early disease and prevent progression. It is, therefore essential that we guarantee our horses an adequate diet containing enough long fibre, monitor for any signs of dental discomfort and, as for humans, have regular dental checks to prevent disease and make sure they are comfortable when ridden.

How often should dental checks be done?

For youngsters, dental checks should start in the first year and be repeated every year, unless recommended differently due to abnormal dental conformation. Once your horse reaches 12-years of age it is sensible to have routine dental checks every 6 months. If dental disease is diagnosed, it may require more frequent examinations and treatment over a period of time.

How to monitor your horse for dental problems?

As the horse's mouth is inaccessible for owners, this can often mean that sores and ulcers cannot easily be observed. It is important to bear in mind that horses can eat normally and most will tolerate severe dental abnormalities and pain without showing many clinical symptoms. If you notice signs such as bad smelling breath, quidding (dropping partially chewed food), weight loss, swelling on face or mandible, nasal discharge, difficulty eating, food packing in the cheeks or discomfort when ridden, then contact your veterinary surgeon immediately.

The dental examination

The dental examination can be done by your veterinary surgeon or alternatively by a qualified equine dental technician (EDT), but make sure they are professionally regulated to provide adequate dental care for your horse. The owner of the horse will be asked questions about the general health of the animal, their eating habits and if they are manifesting any problems when chewing and riding. The vet or EDT will check for any swelling or asymmetry on the head before starting the examination of the incisors and canine and applying a gag to hold the mouth open. The use of a head torch, dental mirrors and picks will allow a full visualisation and manual examination of the mouth; including teeth, palate, tongue, cheeks, bars and the lips before carrying out a routine rasping to remove sharp edges. This can be done with hand rasps or motorised equipment.

It is also good practice for your vet or EDT to complete a dental chart of your horse's mouth at each examination. This can then be referred back to in future dental examinations.

Sedation or no sedation?

Although some horses tolerate a dental examination well, the vet or the EDT might recommend sedation. This can be done by the vet administering an injection directly into the vein, or with an oral paste which can be administered by the owner 30-40 minutes beforehand. Only a vet can administer intravenous sedation, so if you chose to use an EDT for your horse's dental treatment and they require sedation, then the vet will also need to attend. The sedation allows your horse to relax without associating the dental check with a negative experience, as well as ensuring that the procedure can be carried out safely for the animal and the people around them. The dental examination in this condition allows for a better visualisation of the horse's mouth by reducing movement that could compromise the examination, and allow for the diagnosis of disease in the early stages when it is easier and less traumatic to treat.



Spring Castration Clinic - Friday 3rd April 2020 - Call today on 01233 500505

Standing Castration

Normally £310

Clinic Day Price £200

Saving of £110!

Castration Under GA

Normally up to £406

Clinic Day Price £230

Saving of up to £176!

Terms and Conditions:

- Colts must be under 2 years old
- Both testicles must be present (if unsure please contact the practice)
- All Colts must be vaccinated against Tetanus (otherwise they will receive a Tetanus anti-toxin injection at an additional cost)
- £50 non-refundable deposit required at time of booking
- Colts will go home with pain relief and antibiotics which are at an additional cost

Bring your colt to our **Ashford** clinic to take advantage of these savings!



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