

# Dukes Vet Practice

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## Equine Newsletter April 2013

### New website



### EHV1 hits the headlines!

Many of you may have heard of the concerns that the Badminton horse trials was in doubt due to an outbreak of EHV1 in the hunt stables. Following on from that, the diagnosis of a case in a dressage horse that had recently travelled up from Lancashire has caused a temporary shutdown to the movement of many horses in this area.

However there was no direct connection between the two incidents – it's a bit like saying "You must know Jimmy McLeod, he lives in Scotland!"

Much of the reaction is caused by a lack of understanding of EHV1; how common is it, how is it transmitted and what is the current level of risk? In order to help you make informed decisions in future Jim has put a new page on the website with a review of our current understanding of EHV and trying to put the risk in perspective. Look on the website <http://www.dukesvets.com/ehv1.html> for more information or if you don't have access to a computer call the practice and we'll send you a copy.

The weather has been pretty rubbish so let's hope when the sun does come out we can all go and compete without an irrational fear of an unknown virus lurking round the corner!

Our new website went live in March. We have been planning to upgrade our website for a couple of years and after much hard work from Jim and Linda its finally come to fruition.

It has all the features of the old website including the online payment facility plus plenty of information on various aspects of the practice. We have updated our meet the staff page; Mark is still reluctant to supply a photo but everyone else has and there's some background info on the team.

One of the big benefits is its now much easier to change and update so we can put information up there quickly. It also has a news page so check it out to see whats the hot topic of the moment.

Please feel free to visit next time you're on the internet and you can also send comments back using the contact us page.

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Dukes Veterinary Practice Limited  
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## Free Cushing's Test

The manufacturers of Prascend, a treatment for Equine Cushing's Disease (PPID for the technophiles amongst you), are sponsoring free testing for Cushing's disease until the end of June 2013. This is only free for diagnosing new cases and not for the monitoring of ongoing confirmed cases. We will still charge for the visit, any examination and taking the sample but it will save you about £35.

Hannah is the vet to speak to about this if you are interested.

Cushing's is a disease that is becoming more widely recognised. Symptoms are variable but there is a strong link with laminitis. Cushing's usually affects horses over 8 years of age but we have seen horses as young as 6 testing positive.

Other classic symptoms include a long coat that doesn't moult, increased drinking, lethargy and possibly a change in shape but some horses may only display one or none of these features. Treatment is usually by daily medication and is very effective in many cases causing a reversal of symptoms and in some cases a new lease of life.

## New sarcoid treatment

A sarcoid is a type of skin cancer that affects horses. There are a variety of treatments available but no one treatment is successful in every case.

For the vast majority of cases we have recommended treatment with a special anti-sarcoid paste which was developed at Liverpool University by Professor Derek Knottenbelt. This is very successful but some cases are stubborn and return even after repeated treatment.

For these cases we have been working with Dr David Sutton, the Equine Medicine Specialist from Glasgow University. We have been using liquid nitrogen to freeze the sarcoid combined with cytotoxic drugs.



A sarcoid regressing following cryotherapy

So far this has proved excellent on those stubborn cases. Please contact us if you would like to discuss a case.



### Standing at stud

**Igguldon  
Skye  
Laird**

**Igguldon Skye Laird(Sausage) is a 16.1HH grey 12yr old mainly TB/ID with a tiny bit of Hannoverian and Welsh. Graded with the S.S.H. he is currently winning at medium level dressage and has qualified for the Elementary regionals, he has also placed novice eventing. He is by Jumbo the worlds No 1 living event sire. Sausage has 3 fabulous paces, great feet and a temperament second to none. A kind and willing horse he is very easy to do. His 2nd foal was a winner at the Highland Show as a yearling. Oldest offspring will be coming out under saddle this year. He previously stood at Balcormo, we are told he is very fertile and he was good at getting difficult mares in foal. Contact Jim for more information.**

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