

Dukes Vet Practice

Banchory Business Centre
Burn O'Bennie Road
Banchory
AB31 5ZU
www.dukesvets.com

Putting your horses first



Newsletter April 2015

Welcome to our April Newsletter. We've been pretty busy already this spring seeing a huge variety of different cases. Sadly we have already seen a case of grass sickness and with the relatively mild spring it's not going to be long until we see an increase in laminitis cases.

RCVS recognised specialist Patrick Pollock, Cert ES(soft tissue), Dip ECVS, MRCVS is visiting the practice on Wednesday 8th April. We already have a full caseload but if you have a case you would like Patrick to see please discuss it with one of the vets.

Strangles has been a hot topic recently and a post we put on facebook last week went to over 29,000 people! We have put some additional advice on there and also some biosecurity guidelines and information about Strangles on our website www.dukesvets.com

We've already reached our target of 375 "likes" on Facebook so will be doing another draw and organising a First Aid talk for the winning yard shortly. The next target is 500 likes and we will be doing a draw for three saddle cloths with the Dukes Vet Practice logo on. Everyone who has liked the page will be entered in the draw so please keep sharing the page.

☎ 01330 826744

Fax 01330 820670

Email dukesvet@gmail.com; linda@dukesvets.com

SPECIAL OFFER EXTENDED! 10% DISCOUNT

Having a horse's teeth looked after properly is essential for their health and happiness. It can also massively improve the condition, lifespan and performance of your horse by correcting sharp points or other dental problems. All our vets have attended postgraduate dental training courses run by BEVA (British Equine Veterinary Association) and we regularly work together to ensure a high and consistent standard of dentistry. There is a fine line between keeping the teeth smooth and damaging the teeth by over-rasping. We have had a few cases lately where over-rasping has caused the horse significant problems. As a special offer we are giving 10% off our usual price for dental when combined with a vaccination (also 10% off) or when 3 or more dentals are done on the same yard at the same visit. This has been so successful that we are continuing this offer for all of 2015.

Grass sickness trial open again

As already mentioned we have already entered the risk period for this horrible disease. The EGS vaccine trial is FREE for participants and all visits, blood tests and vaccination costs are paid for by the trial. Half of the horses enrolled receive a new ... (cont over)

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Director Jim Dukes BVM&S, MRCVS

Grass sickness trial (cont)

...grass sickness vaccine and the other half a placebo in what is known as a double blind trial – neither you nor we will know which horses are vaccinated. In addition all the horses have at least three examinations by a vet and a blood test to check general health all paid for by the trial. It's quite time consuming for the owners but does give a lot of information and at least half the horses should have better protection than before. If the trials are successful you will have also helped to move forward in tackling this disease. To qualify yards must have had at least one confirmed EGS case in the last three years and at least 10% of horses on the yard must be entered in the trial. This obviously works best when all horses are under the same ownership but this is not essential. For more information speak to one of the vets in the practice or you can find out more from the AHT's dedicated website www.equinegrasssickness.co.uk or email equinegrasssickness@aht.org.uk

Allowing your horse to reach his potential

There may be many reasons why your horse doesn't reach his full potential. All horses are individuals and each has similar but slightly different needs. In the vast majority of cases how you train and manage your horse will have the biggest impact on how well he does but sometimes wear and tear and other undiagnosed physical problems may be holding him back.

We have seen several horses recently that have been passed on from other yards because of lameness issues. Whilst we cannot sort every problem we have been able to make a significant difference with some of these with relatively straightforward treatments. Previously written off horses are going out and competing at high levels again and this can be very gratifying for us as well as the owner.

New treatments are coming onto the market the whole time but many of these are not clinically proven. A step back to look at the whole horse can quickly point you in the direction of whether it is a lameness, back, tack, dental or training issue rather than trying all these things individually first and then consulting the vet when you have got nowhere first!

New AI pricelist online

Our 2015 AI pricelist is now online. We had a great year in 2014 with all clients' mares going home pregnant. This won't happen every year but if the mare is fit and reproductively healthy, you chose a fertile stallion from a stud that can consistently provide good quality semen then if we get the management and insemination right you have a good chance.



We have already had enquiries for AI and Embryo Transfer so this could be a busy year. In our experience mares conceive most consistently in May, June and July up here so now is the time to start planning that foal. If you are interested speak to Jim to discuss and book your mare in.

We also have all the facilities for semen collection, chilling and freezing here. If you have a stallion you would like semen frozen from then contact Jim.

Easter opening hours

We will be closed except for emergencies on Monday 6th April. Otherwise open as normal. To contact the duty vet out of hours phone 07966 367746 as normal.

