

Dukes Vet Practice

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Newsletter January 2015

100% Equine

Major news for 2015 is that we are now a 100% equine practice. Since the practice was formed in 2002 we have always been a mainly equine



practice but did a reasonable percentage of cattle and sheep work. However the practice growth year on year has always been our horse work and we have decided to focus all our efforts into equine practice. None of you should notice much difference initially but over this year and in future we will be focussing all of our investment, training and practice development on providing an outstanding service for you and your horses.

In order to help the practice grow in a way that's right for you we will be sending out a survey next month asking for your comments and suggestions on how we can improve. In the meantime or at any time we are always interested and ready to listen to any thoughts or ideas you may have so just let us know!

Since we purchased our DR x ray machine a few years ago we have been able to do more and more diagnostic workups at your yard, but there is a limit to what can be done in the field and there are times when bringing a horse to our examination facility in Aboyne is really useful. We already run clinics in Aboyne with visiting RCVS recognised specialists in orthopaedics, medicine and ophthalmology and we plan to run a few more this year.

We also had an extremely successful stud season

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last year with 100% of clients' mares going home pregnant. Our numbers were down on previous years but clearly we are doing something right and with the increase in the value of young horses we may see an increase in our stud work this year.

We have been very successful in the past with embryo transfer (90% pregnancy rate per embryo transferred) and have our own recipient mare herd. We intend to expand this service in 2015. Contact Jim for further information on all aspects of horse breeding.

We would like to thank you all for your support in the past and look forward to working with all of you in 2015.

Happy New Year!

SPECIAL OFFER 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 until end of March 2015.

Dukes Veterinary Practice Limited
Registered in Scotland No. 230567
Director Jim Dukes BVM&S, MRCVS

Staff News

Lauren has moved on and is now working in Falkirk, much closer to where her husband works. Although small in stature Lauren certainly rolled her sleeves up and got stuck in whilst she was here and we wish her every success in future.

Sadie has been multi-tasking helping out with inpatients alongside her office work whilst Jane is recovering from a hip replacement. Sadie has been a great help and we are looking forward to Jane coming back too for what should be a busy summer at Dykehead.

As always Linda has kept the office running smoothly and we are always grateful for her input. As many of you know Hannah is now Mrs Gray so things keep moving on.

Daydream recovers from Nightmare!!

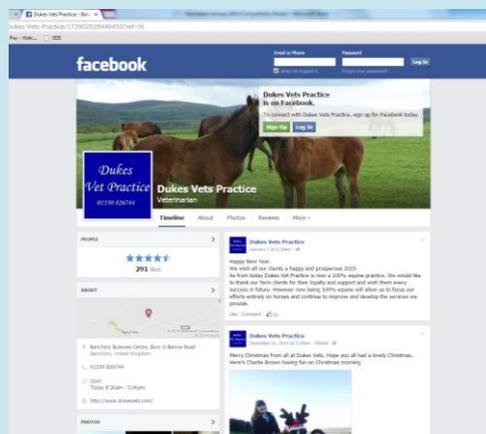
In 2014 we had four really severely lame laminitic horses. All of them were non weight-bearing lame on at least one foot for a period of time and all represented a diagnostic and therapeutic challenge. Although all equally dramatic and at the time upsetting for their owners the underlying disease picture has been different in each. However we are happy to report that they all responded to treatment and are at various stages of recovery.

Daydream first showed signs of laminitis in December 2013 but seemed to recover almost immediately until a recurrence in May 2014. She responded well initially but then became acutely lame. Her foot was re-radiographed and although the x-rays don't look very dramatic they showed that her sole was extremely thin and there was rotation of the pedal bone. She was fitted with a custom made plastic and rubber foot support as she had insufficient sole to protect her foot. The use of the special supports allowed us to create maximum



We're on facebook!

If you would like more regular updates on what's going on at the practice then visit our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Dukes-Vets-Practice/173902039446450> We said we would run a prize draw for a First Aid talk at a yard once we reached 250 likes.



We have exceeded this target and the winner is Dawn Law from Muiryhaugh in Strachan. Dawn has generously offered to host the Deeside pony club for the talk which we will be running shortly. If you are in a riding or pony club and would like us to do a talk just let us know and we will always help if we can.



Dukes Vet Practice became an RCVS accredited practice in 2014. Whilst the practice standards scheme does not have much to do with clinical ability or services offered by the practice, it does mean that we are complying with all the relevant legislation and are focused on providing excellent customer service

protection for the structures in the foot and allow re alignment of the pedal bone. Despite a few anxious weeks for all, she has done brilliantly and is now back being ridden.