

Dukes Vet Practice

Dykehead
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Newsletter July 2010

Welcome to our late summer newsletter. Let's hope it is a late summer as a little more sun would not go amiss! We would like to say a belated welcome to our new vet Jeanette Adler. Jeanette has joined us from Denmark where she financed her way through college by teaching showjumping and starting young horses and sorting out those with issues. She has also showjumped at National level in Denmark. Jeanette has been with us since April and we are really glad she has joined our team.

Patrick Pollock coming back

Patrick Pollock, RCVS recognised orthopaedic surgeon is visiting us again on the 9th August. We already have a full day booked up for him but if you feel you have a case you would like him to look at please contact one of the vets to discuss it.

Dentistry equipment upgrade

We have recently spent over £3000 on new dental equipment to ensure we continue to offer the very best of dental care for your horse. Dentistry has always been an important part of our practice and all three vets have considerable experience and understanding of the requirements for treating dental disorders. We offer a routine performance floating or rasping service to ensure you get the best out of your horse as well as helping those horses with problems to eat better and feel more comfortable. Jim also sees a number of referrals from other vets and EDT's (equine dental technicians) for tooth extractions and assessment and treatment of more complex conditions.

We are often asked how often a horse's teeth should be rasped. This can vary considerably depending on the age of the horse, rate of wear of the teeth, whether or not there is significant oral disease or any disorders and what the horse is used for. For instance Jim's polo ponies are all rasped in March and then all checked again and rasped in July if necessary as the season is very short and there is no point compromising a horse's performance for the sake of a check up. On the other hand for many native ponies with good teeth leading non competitive lives once a year is often sufficient. Our vets will normally discuss their findings when they assess and rasp your horse's teeth and suggest a suitable check up interval.

Natural Horseman Jay Richardson

Since Mike Barker sadly passed away there has been a big gap for us in terms of finding a Natural Horseman that we believed in. However just like buses you wait for ages then two come along together! Jim recently met Lynn Henry and has written a foreword for one of her "Think Like a Pony" workbooks. Lynn is based in the midlands but is running a course for

Equine and Farm Animal Practice

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children in Oldmeldrum this month and details can be found on her website
www.lynnhenry.co.uk

We have also just met Jay Richardson. Jay is a cowboy from Colorado and has done roping on a semi professional basis on the Rodeo circuit. However 16 years ago he was introduced to Pat Parelli and has since worked with him becoming a 3* instructor in the States. He has since left the Parelli organisation and is now based in the UK for much of the year. In September he will be working for the newly setup "Horseback UK" charity, helping to rehabilitate injured combat soldiers. Jay is also available for private work and is particularly interested in helping you to resolve any issues you may have with your horse from trailer loading and behavioural issues to teaching you advanced horsemanship techniques that work on all horses.

He came up to Dykehead and worked with a couple of young horses here watched by all of our veterinary team and yard staff. As my son Jess said "He is sick!!" I think that's teenage speak for pretty impressive. You can contact Jay through Horseback UK or email him at j.richardson65@hotmail.com

Sedation

The rules seem to have tightened up for us when it comes to working with other "professionals" with your horse. There was a case recently when a UK vet was sued because he went to a yard to watch a vet from Europe treat one of his client's horses. Even though the European vet was a supposed expert, he injected several of the horse's joints with a much larger dose of a steroid than is routinely used in the UK. The valuable competition horse subsequently got laminitis and the UK vet was sued even though he did not carry out the treatment and his opinion was never asked for on the day in question. If you want a specialist referral for your horse your own vet should be the best person to ask for advice first rather than someone you meet in the canteen at a competition.

Following this through, we can only be present when other people work on your horse if they are a member of a recognised UK professional or trade body such as a registered farrier and have their own indemnity insurance. In particular this will apply to EDT's (Horse Dentists). To sedate a horse for an EDT they must be either BEVA or BAEDT registered and have full professional indemnity insurance. We will have to be present during the whole procedure and therefore charge accordingly.

Cosequin special offer

We are doing a special offer on Cosequin joint supplement again. Either buy two 400g tubs and get one free or buy a 700g tub and get a 400g free. To get this price you must pay when you order. The 400g tubs have a short expiry date so check with the office first.

Finally

Lorna Jowett, the nutritionist from Bailey's is here between 18th and 20th August. I think she's quite busy but her advice is useful and free. You can contact her through our office. Enjoy the rest of the summer!

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