

Dukes Vet Practice

Dykehead
Aboyne
Aberdeenshire
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www.dukesvets.com

**Newsletter
November
2011**



Staff news

We would like to say a big thank you to our vet Jeanette for her help and dedication whilst she has been at the practice. Sadly Jeanette is going back to Denmark after being with us for a year and a half. It is a shame to lose her as she has become a valuable member of the team. We wish her good luck and every success in the future.

It is never easy to replace a good vet but we are delighted that Hannah Tindall will start work when Jeanette leaves. Hannah was a particularly gifted student who stood out while seeing practice with us. Since qualifying she has worked this summer locuming at Kessock Equine Vets and is now doing some small animal work in Aberdeen. She is very knowledgeable and we are sure she will fit in very well here and should help the practice develop in future. Hannah is also a keen rider and has recently taken on one of our young horses, Biscuit, and has been competing him this year.

Maternity leave

Lydia, our nurse assistant and groom is expecting a baby in February and will shortly be going on maternity leave. We are looking for someone who is willing to work flexible hours part time from December onwards.

The majority of the job would entail looking after the horses on the farm at Dykehead and caring for in patients. There are a large variety of other tasks to be undertaken including admitting and discharging patients, instrument sterilisation, assisting during procedures such as treatments, lameness investigations and surgery etc. There are also general maintenance and cleaning duties around the yard.

We are looking for someone who is hardworking, dedicated and willing to work as part of a team. The ability to communicate well with staff and clients is important and experience and competence in all aspects of handling and dealing with horses is essential. Training for other specific tasks will be given as required. Contact Jim or Linda for further information.

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Email jim@dukesvets.com; linda@dukesvets.com

Embryo transfer news

Seven successful embryo transfers

Embryo transfer has been very successful this year. From six donor mares we have seven foals due from eight embryos recovered. As far as we are aware this is the most pregnancies achieved in a single year by any practice in Scotland. By comparison with some parts of the world this is a tiny number of transfers but you have to start somewhere. We have been doing embryo transfer on our own horses for four years now and the oldest foals are now being ridden.



Jim with six ET recipients confirmed pregnant with embryos from clients mares (FMV photography)

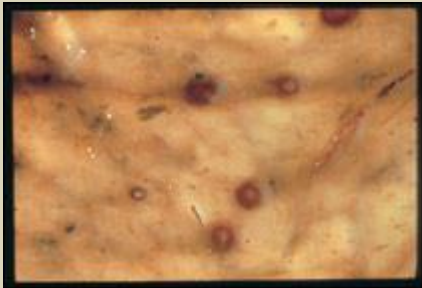
Embryo transfer is more expensive than breeding normally but gives you the potential to breed several foals from one mare in a year if you are lucky and also allows the donor mares to still be ridden and competed. It should be stressed that as with all breeding embryo transfer works best on young reproductively normal mares. If a mare has had difficulty conceiving in the past then she may also be difficult to get embryos from. However the technique is used on some older mares with considerable success.

The main benefit of embryo transfer is it allows you to breed from your best mares only. Whilst this won't guarantee an outstanding foal every time it massively improves your chances of breeding a good horse compared to breeding from a moderate horse that can't do anything else! With this years success we have used all our good recipient mares and so are looking for suitable mares for next year. They must be "paddock sound", get on well with other horses, be straightforward to handle and less than 10 years old. We are looking for medically healthy mares between 15hh and 16.2hh. If you have a mare looking for a home that you think might be suitable then please contact Jim.

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

What is your worming program for your horse this winter?

It's great that so many people are now routinely using faecal worm egg counts rather than wormers to monitor and protect their horses from internal parasites. However it is important to realise that even with consistently low counts it is advisable to do a mid-winter worming of all the horses with a product to treat encysted strongyles. These small redworms are the



Encysted strongyles in the gut wall

commonest internal worms and can overwinter in the horse's gut causing a significant pasture worm egg burden when they emerge in the spring and occasionally severe colic if present in large numbers.

Anyone not currently using worm egg counts who would like to start should chat to one of the practice vets. We do the egg counts in house and can supply all the kit you need. An encysted strongyle treatment after the first significant frosts is a good time to start the cycle.

Unfortunately worm egg counts will not reliably detect tapeworms. We find these increasingly commonly in colic cases and recommend all horses are treated for tapeworm twice yearly at roughly six monthly intervals.

What's new in lameness? Practice Talk Wednesday 23rd November

Mark and Jim are teaming up to give a talk at the Millers, Midmar next week.

Mark is talking on our approach to lameness; when you should call the vet and looking at some cases and how we investigate and treat them. It's been a year of dramatic wounds so Jim will look at how we approach these cases. Tickets are available from the Millers and their shop will be open afterwards with a 10% DISCOUNT ON THE NIGHT

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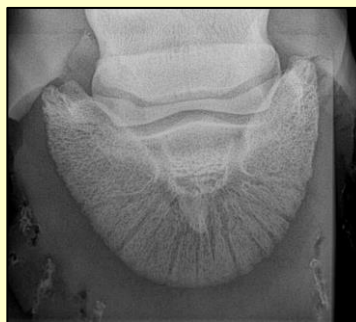
New stallion arrives at Dykehead



Sadly we have had to put down our old stallion, Noble Shot, this year. He was 20 and has been a great horse for us. It has been difficult to find a suitable replacement but Jim has spent three days at the thoroughbred sales in Doncaster and Newmarket and looked at about 200 colts. Silver Tiger came home on 3rd November and we hope you like him.

Silver Tiger is very laid back and Jim is currently training him to see if he will play polo. It's obviously quite a change from Newmarket Heath but he's settling in well.

He's by German Champion Racehorse Tiger Hill (Ire) out of a winning mare by European joint top rated racehorse Rainbow Quest (USA). See our attached flyer for more information.



A busy Summer

The practice has been busier than ever this summer and we thank you all for your support. One of the tools that has been invaluable is our

new DR X ray system. This is a bit like a digital camera and gives us pictures on site within a few seconds of taking the image. As well as beautiful image quality this is incredibly useful for cases such as non weight bearing lame horses where we can carry out a full x ray investigation on site and make treatment decisions on the spot. We wonder how we managed before!

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