



## WELCOMING BACK

### Angela Jones

We are extremely pleased to have Angela back with us and out and about again following her maternity leave with the gorgeous Dougie!

George the dog is also very glad to be back at work and can be found regally overseeing visits from his squashy bed in the car. Lots of you will know Angela already but for those who don't know, Angela has many strings to her bow including: a Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice in Equine Medicine, a wealth of experience in sports horse and poor performance medicine and she also practices acupuncture.

### Jo Gillingham

We are also thrilled to have Jo returning to us having spent a year working in a busy equine referral hospital in Kent. Hopefully a familiar face to some, Jo can't wait to be back catching up with you all.

Jo's enthusiasm and energy are only matched by her skills and knowledge in equine clinical practice.



### 'Flu vaccines

There has been a case of equine influenza reported in Wiltshire early in March. Equine 'flu continues to circulate in the population so, as we look forward to getting out and about again, it is important to check your horses are up to date with their vaccinations.

We strongly recommend those horses mixing with others, those that will be out training or competing or those in yards with frequent movement, have 6 monthly flu boosters.

Any new horses to a yard should be isolated with sufficient biosecurity measures in place.

**If you would like to discuss either your horse's vaccine requirements of biosecurity measures in place at your yard do get in touch.**

### EHV

Equine Herpes Virus is a hot topic at present with a recent outbreak of EHV-1 at an international show in Spain. There are 9 different strains of EHV, with 1 and 4 being the most common and present within the horse population at all times. EHV-4 is linked to respiratory disease, whereas EHV-1 is linked to respiratory disease, abortion and neurological disease.

We are able to vaccinate for EHV1 & 4 but no vaccination is able to prevent the neurological form of the disease. If horses are at risk of exposure i.e. have been in contact or will be in contact with other horses involved in an outbreak, then we do NOT recommend vaccination as this could potentially increase the risk of developing the neurological form of disease.

Biosecurity is key to managing this virus (much the same as social distancing and hygiene measures we are following for the Covid 19 pandemic!), vaccinating whole yards rather than individuals provides the greatest benefit to herd health and can be recommended, in addition to strict biosecurity measures, for horses who will be competing/mixing with other horses and have low risk of being exposed to the current outbreak from Spain.

We also vaccinate pregnant mares at 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy to reduce the risk of abortion. Please get in touch with the office regarding concerns or wanting to discuss booking in for vaccination – with increased demand globally, the vaccine stock is being carefully managed by manufacturers so we will prioritise those most in need first.



# The GEORGE Equine Clinic

From the competition horse to the retired pony – WE CARE

## Competing restarting and pre-season checks

With the expected gradual lifting of lockdown rules we look forward to being able to support you and your horses restarting training and competitions! Coming back into work or increasing the demands of your horse is a common time to notice any changes or performance issues. Pre-season checks allow us to get to know your horse and your aspirations, assess body condition and any subtle issues such as lameness with a dynamic orthopaedic exam.

## Microchipping Law

Since October 2020, it is mandatory for all owners to microchip their horses, ponies and donkeys. A new Central Equine Database is in use which allows local authorities and police to more easily reunite lost or stolen equids with their owners.

If you are unsure whether your horse has a microchip, please call the equine office to book a visit or ask a vet at your next visit. It is very important and a legal obligation of all equine owners to make sure that your contact details are kept up to date with the microchip company.

## Worm Egg Count Reminder

With (slightly) warmer weather upon us, it's time to start up the worm egg counts again. Worm egg count reminders will be sent to you all shortly. We advise strategic worm control (worming your horse based on the results of faecal worm egg counts), as it reduces the development of drug resistant worms, as well as being the most cost-effective approach.

Remember 3 monthly worm egg counts are included for those in our Healthy Horse Club, during the grazing season.

**If you have not received your reminder, please contact the office to check we hold the correct contact details for you.**

## Zoom clinical clubs

We are pleased to be putting on topical webinars for clients in lieu of being able to see you all in person! Last month we had a very successful and informative discussion about Equine Asthma by our own Dr Angela Jones with a quiz and prizes at the end, very well done to the winners, Demi and Nic!

[CLICK HERE TO WATCH THE WEBINAR](#)

Our next Zoom Clinical Club is just around the corner. Please email or call us to register your interest and to receive your Zoom invitation.

## The Equine Eye

Wednesday 24th March at 8pm

Come and join us, from the comfort of your own home, for a Zoom clinical club and quiz.

**What requests do you have for future talks?  
Do get in touch with your ideas**

## Everymilematters

The staff at The George Vet Group spent a drizzly week in February walking, cycling, swimming outdoors and running achieving 1864 miles and raising a whopping **£4110 in aid of Action for Pulmonary Fibrosis** in memory of a much loved and missed colleague, Tim Hirst. Thank you to everyone who donated. The page will remain up until the end of March if anyone else wishes to support this important charity.

[www.justgiving.com/everymilematters](http://www.justgiving.com/everymilematters)

## Healthy Horse Club

Only £11 per month



To find out more about all the benefits of our Healthy Horse Club membership simply click the link here

*We value all your feedback.*

**If you would like to leave a review to help those looking for veterinary care in the area please click here.**

*Thank you*

Follow us for regular updates

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@GeorgeEquineClinic