

## What we have been up to:

- Following on from our very popular talk by Olympian and International event rider Vittoria Panizzon in March, we have arranged an evening visit to her yard on the **27th June - please call the office for more information and to book your place.**
- Jo Gillingham volunteered once again at the BHS/BEVA Trust Education and Welfare Clinic, this time in Kent. This charity-run operation provides essential health checks and care, including castration, to horses in need.
- We ran our first ever weigh clinic at our facilities at Garsdon in May - see below for more information.
- We covered the VWH fun ride at Cirencester Park on the 27th and 28th May and sponsored Area Dressage on the 11th June.
- We also sponsored the recent Pony Club dressage qualifiers' show event at Tedworth. "We had a fantastic day yesterday! Lots of beautiful ponies and happy members!" We always love hearing how these events go. Thank you for the appreciation.
- Ali Mead took up her regular post at Badminton Horse Trials providing her expert care and assessment, ensuring the safety of the horses on the internationally famous cross-country course.



## Cracked feet:

The dry weather recently has resulted in a number of issues - rutty field, dust, pollens and dry hooves. When the feet are dry, they can be more prone to developing cracks which are not only unsightly but can lead to lameness or long-term hoof defects.

## How do we avoid this?

- Pick out feet daily
- Keep regular trimming schedule with your farrier (more frequent in summer)
- Wash feet with water and apply hoof oil/moisturiser
- Avoid exercising too much on hard or uneven ground
- Feed a biotin containing hoof supplement if horn is poor quality





# Summer newsletter



## Laminitis:

An ever-present threat, laminitis can affect any horse or pony at any time of year. Normally we associate laminitis with Spring and Autumn flushes of grass, but we have seen plenty of cases throughout winter and summer too. This is partly because we keep our horses so well: they have high quality (and calorie) grazing and feeding, they are kept warm and dry all year round, we look after their teeth and use pasture management and a targeted de-worming programme. These are all important for a healthy horse, but horses are designed to live on poor quality grazing and walk long distances to find it, resulting in us facing an obesity epidemic.

If you are struggling to maintain a healthy weight on your horse, you are not alone and getting horses to lose weight is hard work. A major part of the battle is being able to identify a good weight - we can use body condition scoring, weigh tapes and weigh bridges to assess condition and weight and doing this regularly, at least every season, can really help keep track of any changes.

We recently teamed up with Corinium Equine Services and Clare Macleod to provide a weight clinic and nutrition clinic for individualised plans for your horses. If you are interested, please get in touch to discuss this with us further.



If you would like to get in touch with Corinium to book their portable weigh bridge to visit your yard, please get in touch [Corinium Equine - Home | Facebook](#) 07895 703005.

## In other news:

### Out of Hours Service

From July, we are joining services with Equicall, a dedicated out of hours service provider. We will continue to provide the essential out of hours service for all of our clients 24/7 365 days a year as we always have done. However, this will be shared with Equicall moving forwards.

There will be timely communication between any vets that you may see out of hours and ourselves. We will then be back in touch in the working day to provide ongoing care as needed. Any questions, please do speak to us!

**We are all very sorry to hear that Joanna Gillingham is leaving us.** She has provided our clients with a fantastic service and has been a very valued member of our team both within our equine team and the wider practice.

Fortunately for our clients, she will be one of the team we will be joining services with at Equicall.

## Dispensary Saturdays

From 29th July, the dispensary in Malmesbury will no longer be staffed for the collection of pre-ordered medicines on a Saturday morning.

Dispensary continues to be open for collection of preordered medicines from Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm.

**Emergency veterinary services will continue as they always have on a weekend**