



Newsletter - Spring 2022

Welcome to our Spring newsletter!

Staff updates



Welcome **Lizzie Kopec!** Lizzie joins us having completed an 18-month internship at a very busy referral hospital; she has a keen interest in internal medicine and poor performance cases. Very excitingly she will soon be joined by a 4-legged companion called Fergus who we can't wait to meet! Obviously, we're excited for you all to meet Lizzie too!

Angela is busy settling down to maternity leave. Some of you may already know that Aurora Grace McGurk arrived on 17th February, safely delivered by mum & dad whilst on route to hospital! New arrival is settling in well at home with the gorgeous Dougie (and not forgetting George who also had a special birthday on the 14th!). Enjoy your time away from us but please hurry back Angela!



Is it time to take your horse's rug off?



Short answer, **YES!** Now is the last chance to use the cold weather to get your horses and ponies to lose some pounds before the Spring grass really takes off. Spring is a high-risk time for laminitis and although not all of our

patients will be in the high-risk category, any equine can be affected. Healthy Horse Club members can find more on this in their newsletter! The normal cycle of the year would be for horses to gain weight over spring and summer and use up their resources over winter staying warm.

Unfortunately, that doesn't happen anymore as most of our horses are well rugged, fed hay and hard feeds, and have shelter from the elements. The other benefit of removing rugs also mean that your horse will be less at risk of getting too warm under rugs with Spring temperatures being so variable.

Obviously, no one approach will fit all, for example some geriatric horses need more help staying the right temperature with rugs, and lots of wardrobe changes!

Coming back into work.

If your horse has enjoyed a winter break it's important to consider a few things when coming back into work.

General health – is your horse up to date with dental care and Farriery?

Has your horse had time off due to injury – if so, it will be important to consider what sort of exercise you start with and whether or not the injury is fully resolved.

Coughs and sneezes – if your horse is going to be mixing with others again, is he up to date with vaccines? If he has a cough on the start of exercise, it's important to recognize that this isn't normal.

Loss of fitness – how long your horse has had off will dictate how quickly he can come back into work again, unfit horses asked to do too much are at much higher risk of injuries.

If you have any questions relating to the above please call our office and ask to speak to one of our vets, we are always happy to help!





Worm Egg Counts

It's that time of year again when we look forward to warmer weather and faecal worm egg counts. Come **March** you will receive a reminder to bring in a poo sample for your horses to see if they require worming. This targeted approach limits the unnecessary use of wormers and will help to slow down the development of resistance.

Resistance levels continue to grow and no new anthelmintic drugs (wormers) are being developed, it is up to us as responsible horse owners to slow the development of resistance. Poo picking, reduced reliance on wormers and using targeted treatment are our main weapons – spreading the word and encouraging other horse owners to follow suit will help too.



Pub Quiz 2022 – Save the Date!

Revised date: 23rd March at The Horse and Groom, Charlton, 7:30pm

On account of restriction, we opted to change the date of the Pub Quiz to the 23rd March so that we could enjoy this social event with you all.

The evening will include a fun quiz hosted by our equine team in a function room at The Horse and Groom pub aptly named The Stables!

We will be donating proceeds to The Brooke.

Tickets are £2 per person, maximum of 4 per team (Healthy Horse Club Members have free entry)

Food will be supplied at £5 per head. Please contact the office to buy your entry & food ticket on 01666 826456.



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