



## AUTUMN/WINTER 2022

### Winter Worming



Hopefully you will have been performing worm egg counts through the grazing season to assess the requirements for worming your horses. However, it is now getting to the time of year when we recommend treating all horses and ponies with an **Equest Pramox**. This will ensure that they are covered against encysted redworm and tapeworm, both of which we cannot test for in the usual faecal worm egg count. The best time to give this product is about **December** time, approximately 4 weeks after the first frost to reduce the incidence of pasture reinfection after worming. We then recommend taking the next worm egg count in the Spring approximately three months following their winter wormer.

### Pub quiz

Please join us for our charity pub quiz which is taking place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> November at the Crown Inn, Broad Hinton. All proceeds will be going to the Brooke charity. **Please let the office know if you would like to join us.**

The GEORGE Equine Clinic

**THE GEORGE EQUINE CLINIC CHARITY PUB QUIZ**

Prizes to be won!!

£2 Entry per person/HHC members free

**Tuesday 29th Nov**  
At The Crown Inn, Broad Hinton, SN4 9PA  
Starts at 7pm.

Sausage and Chips supper £8/head  
Chocolate brownie dessert £5/head  
Food to be booked in advance.

Please let the office know if you would like to join us and whether you would like food:  
01666 826456 or  
horse@georgevetgroup.co.uk

**BROOKE**  
ACTION FOR WORKING HORSES AND DONKEYS

### What the team have been up to

We had great fun holding a number of events for clients this year. We hosted our first ever summer social for clients with food, drinks and games providing a fantastic opportunity to catch up in a social setting. Later in September we hosted a Donkey client evening with a guest speaker from the Donkey Sanctuary. We even had two donkey guests join us for a practical element for the evening.

We been busy this summer and autumn with our vets getting out and about to various events and CPD days. **Jo, Meghan and Lizzie** attended as part of the veterinary team for the Junior and Young rider European Eventing Championships held at Hartpury in July.



Photos of our Donkey evening kindly taken by Buffy - [www.buffbytes.co.uk](http://www.buffbytes.co.uk)

**T: 01666 826456**

E: [horse@georgevetgroup.co.uk](mailto:horse@georgevetgroup.co.uk)



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@GeorgeEquineClinic





# The GEORGE Equine Clinic

From the competition horse to the retired pony – WE CARE

## What the team have been up to

**Laura** attended Horse of the Year (HOYS) as part of the veterinary team. An exhausting and busy event, covering the long days of showing and show jumping, but it was incredibly special to be a part of it!



The whole team went to meet the team at Stratton Fire Station in Swindon which has one of only three specialist animal rescue units in the South West. We attended to discuss equine/large animal rescues, the problems faced by different members of the team involved (including us as vets, and the rescue units), the kit they have available and how to use it. We also had fun having a race to dress up in their rescue kit!



We sponsored a day of unaffiliated show jumping at Prestige Equestrian in Gloucester earlier in October. It was a very successful day with lots of busy classes. **Meghan** managed to attend for the morning to spectate and meet some of the competitors. Keep a look out on our social media for more sponsored events!

We are very sad to announce that **Angela** has decided to not return to the George following her maternity leave. We will miss having her as a team and know she will be also be missed by clients, as well as by colleagues across the Group. We wish Angela and her family the very best for the future and thank her for her huge contribution.



## Team News

We wish **Ali** the speediest of recoveries from a broken ankle, sustained at the end of September. Do keep in touch with her to wish her well and keep her entertained!



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**@GeorgeEquineClinic**



## Atypical Myopathy (Sycamore Poisoning) and Acorn Toxicity

There has been an increased number of vets seeing cases of atypical myopathy and acorn toxicity across the country this autumn. The extreme weather over the summer may have contributed to increased numbers of sycamore seeds and acorns this year; combined with the rent windy, stormy weather, this can further increase the risk.

Atypical Myopathy is a severe and often life-threatening disease caused by ingestion of Sycamore seeds and leaves in the Autumn or seedlings in the Spring, all of which contain the toxin Hypoglycin A. Not all species of Sycamore trees contain the toxin, but it can be difficult to differentiate those which do. This disease can affect individuals or groups of horses and there is evidence to suggest that some horses may be more susceptible to this disease than others.



Clinical signs seen in affected horses, can vary in severity but can include generalised weakness, depression, difficulties in breathing, muscle fasciculations, heart problems, colic, brown or dark red urine and recumbency in severely affected horses.

Often intensive medical management is required and may involve referral to an equine hospital for 24-hour care. Unfortunately, this can be a fatal condition with a survival rate of approximately 30-40% so early diagnosis and intervention is absolutely vital.

Acorn toxicity is less common and less well understood than sycamore poisoning. The toxic effects of acorns can be severe and occur rapidly. Clinical signs include moderate to severe colic or colitis, lethargy, dehydration and dark urine which can be a result of kidney failure. Signs may develop extremely rapidly and death can occur within a further 12-24 hours.

### Prevention:

- Provide supplementary forage during Autumn
- Reduce stocking density in paddocks to prevent overgrazing
- Clear fallen sycamore leaves and seeds and acorns from grazing areas or section affected areas off with electric fencing
- Check neighbouring areas as some 'helicopter' seeds can travel up to 200 yards
- Avoid grazing horses in affected paddocks during spring and autumn if possible
- Test for the presence of HGA in your own horses' pastures



### Vaccines

There has recently been a shortage in the supply of equine influenza vaccines. Please be reassured that we have sufficient flu vaccine stock for all of our registered clients and their horses. Rules of governing bodies are likely to change to reflect the shortage of stock across Europe; where appropriate, deferring the annual vaccine to 15 months with the subsequent booster 9 months later (effectively two vaccines within two years will still be required). **Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns.**