

SUMMER 2025



SEADOWN
VETERINARY SERVICES

EQUINE NEWSLETTER

100 YEARS OF VETERINARY SERVICES

DENTAL DAY 9TH JUNE

We are pleased to say that we are having another dental day on 9TH June.

This will once again be one hour long appointments available for six clients to bring their horse into the Hythe hospital for a thorough oral review, dental rasping, and an oroscopic exam.

Time slots start at 9am sharp and are on a first come first served basis, so please don't delay.

An oroscope (video exam) is a specialised camera that we use to look at the mouth in detail - it will let clients see the 'before and 'after' and we can use it to highlight any areas of interest and monitor things within the mouth.

This is going to be offered on this day only, for £80 including sedation (horses and ponies must be sedated for the oroscopic exam) It really is a great opportunity.

Dentals are so much more than just 'rasping the sharp points' and our hope is that this will be a great way for clients to see the work and knowledge that goes into keeping their horses and ponies mouths as comfortable as possible.

These days are very popular so please book your slot now by calling the hospital at Hythe. Thank you!



JUNE STRANGLES VACCINE AMNESTY

As a practice we have been using the licensed vaccine Strangvacc to help protect our equine population from "Strangles" a streptococcal infection that can affect all equines. As well as being a nasty clinical disease, strangles can have all sorts of other implications in a yard setting.

We are currently recommending an initial course of two vaccines four weeks apart followed by a six monthly or yearly booster, depending on the risk profile of the horse, pony or donkey.

For the month of June, we are pleased to offer our clients a "free vaccine"- if your horse has its first vaccine against strangles in June, then the second vaccination will be free of charge. We can offer this service on our routine visit scheme or at our clinic to reduce costs.

If you have any questions please call and speak to our equine team.

Because every horse can get Strangles, and every person can make a difference

You don't think Strangles will happen to you...
Until it does.



A SPECIAL PATIENT STORY

This is the story of Mikey who was found early one morning, with a severely torn nose.

Our client Shona, couldn't find the source of the injury anywhere in the stable, on the stable walls or on Mikey himself and it remains a mystery to this day. However, one thing was certain, the nostril wound was fresh and poor Mikey needed urgent attention. So, a speedy phone call to Seadown and our veterinary surgeon Ludo was on the scene!

A short while later, after sedating Mikey, Ludo had successfully stitched up his badly ripped nostril and left antibiotics.

Mikey had to be confined to the stable area for 10 days to avoid contact with dirt and mud in the field. When he started rubbing the wound due to the natural healing, Shona popped him out into a wider paddock area which settled him.

Mikey was gently ridden again 2 weeks after the incident and has had no side effects.

Shona says the lesson learned from this has been 'not to panic!'. Horses will be horses and whilst the wound looked dreadful, Ludo quickly sorted it and did a wonderful job, keeping in touch throughout Mikey's recovery.

We are hugely grateful to dear Shona for letting us tell Mikey's story and share photos of the injury.

A huge well done to Shona, Ludo and all concerned.

Photos to the left show the original injury, the stitched nostril and Mikey as he is now with his sharer, Kirsty Parsons

STAFF NEWS

As many of you will know we sadly said goodbye to Kirsten Broadley who had been with us for 8 years. She has moved to a practice nearer her home in Dorset. We thank her for all her hard work and she will be sorely missed by all of us at Seadown and our clients.

We would like to Welcome Lou Munroe our new Equine care assistant, she will be based at our clinic in Hythe and will also be out on the road, assisting our vets with procedures such as radiography and endoscopy. We look forward to you all meeting her over the coming months.



Credit: Lou Munroe

Well done Jemma Bailey (Jem) , our Equine Receptionist and Assistant who has successfully passed her SQP training and exam. This means Jem is now a "suitably qualified person" and can assist the vets in advising clients on their worming regimes and help discuss your worming results after submitting samples to our in house laboratory. Jem has undergone many hours of training in order to do this and had to pass a final exam- we are thrilled and so pleased for her that all the revision paid off!



Credit: Jemma Bailey

TAKING CARE OF YOUR DONKEY – DONKEY BEHAVIOUR AND FEEDING TIPS

The Donkey Has Some Unique Behavioural Traits!

Donkeys are very intelligent and they are capable of learning. They have also, however, become known as stubborn animals. This is due to their highly tuned responses when they are faced with a fearful or scary situation. They can 'freeze' on the spot more than horses do, although having said that, they can also show 'fight' behaviours and occasionally show signs of 'flight' also! For their small size, donkeys can be very strong.

Donkeys are smart, and they tend to enjoy a regular, daily routine of catching, feeding and grooming. This allows them to build trust with their owner.

Donkeys are very social creatures, and they also form strong bonds with each other. For this reason, they are often kept in pairs and kept together for veterinary visits, to avoid stressing the donkeys.

Donkeys are very stoic creatures – this is a crucial point when it comes to appreciating your donkey's state of health. A donkey can tolerate a lot of pain and discomfort without showing the same outward signs as perhaps your horse or pony would. For example, a donkey can continue to walk around despite having chronic and severe laminitis, signs of which can be seen on foot x-rays.

Another example is a donkey with colic may not roll or paw, they may simply show a change in their mood, become very quiet and/or isolate themselves from their friends. For this reason, it is essential to recognise changes in your donkey's behaviour and remember that: **A Dull Donkey is an Emergency!** and you should not hesitate to call your Vet.



Donkeys form very strong social bonds

FEEDING YOUR DONKEY

Donkeys need to be fed as donkeys, not as a small horse. Donkeys need less calories in their diet to maintain their weight, and they enjoy trickle feeding on very fibrous feeds. In the UK, donkeys are especially prone to becoming overweight or obese, and to laminitis, therefore their diet needs careful attention and management.

Ensure your donkey has a dental examination by a qualified professional BAEDT or Equine Veterinarian, at least once a year. This can help guide the selection of appropriate feeds. For example, as donkeys age they can develop gaps known as diastemata in-between their teeth. In these cases, it is advised to avoid chaff which gets stuck in the gaps.

What to avoid when feeding your Donkey?

- Cereal grain based feeds, for example coarse mix.
- Do not feed sugary treats.
- Feed no more than a handful of chopped apple or carrots each day.
- Unnecessary supplements - the forage balancer will provide the necessary vitamins and minerals.

NB. If your donkey is overweight or obese, please do not restrict the total food intake in an effort to help weight loss. This is especially risky for the donkey, as it can lead to 'hyperlipaemia'.

Hyperlipaemia is a potentially fatal condition which can occur if a donkey is starved and/or not eating due to any issue. Focus on feeding a high fibre diet and a donkey forage balancer as outlined and try to increase exercise if possible.



A normal blood sample above top, and below a hyperlipaemic blood sample with too much lipid in the blood



Donkeys are stoic and they can often continue to walk around despite having severe laminitis



Horse Health Programme

Your Passion. Our Priority

- ✓ Flu/Tetanus vaccination
- ✓ Routine dental rasp with sedation if required
- ✓ Annual health check
- ✓ 4x faecal worm egg counts
- ✓ Autumn tapeworm saliva test
- ✓ Annual worm risk assessment
- ✓ Appropriate winter wormer if needed
- ✓ Multi-horse discount of £1 off per month
- ✓ 10% discount on veterinary treatment and medicines
- ✓ 20% discount on selected lifetime care medications



£15.99 per month

MAIN HOSPITAL: Frost Lane, Hythe SO45 3NG Tel: 023 8084 2237
TOTTON: 84 Salisbury Rd, Totton SO40 3AJ Tel: 023 8066 3817
LYMINGTON: 4 Avenue Rd, Lymington Tel: 01590 672027
www.seadownvets.co.uk

Find us on **facebook**

We hope you enjoy our newsletter and find the information helpful, however it should not be used as an alternative to professional veterinary care. If you have any concerns regarding your horses' health please contact your surgery.

