



SEADOWN
VETERINARY SERVICES

EQUINE NEWSLETTER

100 YEARS OF VETERINARY SERVICES

AUTUMN WORMING ADVICE

As the nights draw in, autumn is a critical time to assess and manage worm burdens before winter sets in.

Faecal Worm Egg Counts (FWECS): Targeted rather than blanket-treatment

Rather than worming every horse "just in case," FWECS allow us to identify which horses need treatment. By analysing a small sample of droppings, we can measure the number of certain worm eggs present and tailor worming accordingly. This reduces unnecessary drug use, helps prevent resistance, and keeps your horse's gut flora balanced.



Photo of worm eggs through a microscope

Tapeworm Testing

Tapeworms don't shed eggs consistently, so they often go undetected in standard FWECS. Autumn or Spring are ideal times to test for tapeworm using a saliva-based ELISA test, though. These are quick, non-invasive, and give a reliable indication of exposure—helping us decide whether treatment is needed. Beware, antibodies can remain elevated for several months after treatment for tapeworm, so false positives can occur if recently wormed.

Why Autumn Matters

As temperatures drop, parasite activity slows—but encysted small redworm larvae can remain dormant in the gut, ready to emerge in spring. These can cause serious illness if left unchecked. Strategic testing and treatment now can prevent problems later.

Best Practice Advice

- Arrange FWECS for all horses this autumn
- Use tapeworm testing to guide treatment decisions
- Avoid routine worming without evidence—**targeted control is safer, more effective, and reduces resistance**
- Maintain good pasture hygiene: regular poo-picking reduces reinfection risk



By working together to implement evidence-based parasite control, we can protect our horses' health, reduce drug resistance, and make worming more effective for everyone.

Members of our Horse Health Programme (HHP) are entitled to 4x worm egg counts (throughout the year), 1x Equisal Tapeworm Test, an Autumn worming risk assessment, and many other benefits. If you'd like to arrange a worm egg count or tapeworm test, or for more information on joining the HHP, just give the practice a call.

STAFF STORY: Louisa's horse, Holly

Since the age of 14, our vet Louisa has owned her cob, Holly, now nearly 26-years-old. Together they have done a bit of everything, particularly enjoying showing and hacking. Unfortunately, 18 months ago, Holly started to feel her age and went lame on her right hind.

Luckily for Holly, Louisa was quick to act and, working with Laura, our clinical director, found inflammation in her right stifle. Together, they medicated Holly's stifle with steroids and started daily Equioxx, and a few weeks later she was back to showing, coming 2nd in the veteran's class and 3rd in the coloured class!

Four weeks after medication of her stifle, Holly still felt a little off when ridden, so Louisa and Laura decided to medicate her stifle with Arthramid gel for longer-term relief. At the time of writing, Holly is two weeks post-Arthramid and seems to be feeling better and enjoying her hacking again.

All credit to Louisa and Laura for helping Holly to show that, with the right care, age is just a number!



PRACTICE NEWS

After great success last year, we recently held our annual Seadown Rounders match and picnic at Moonhills. Organised by our nurse Charley and vet Alex, our Well-being champions, it has been a great event to enjoy the last of the summer evenings and help the team have fun together and unwind from what can, at times, be a stressful and emotionally challenging industry.

We are already looking forward to keeping up the new tradition next year!



Safety Helmets

You may have started to notice our equine vets and nurses wearing their safety helmets recently. This is following recently published CVS-funded research by Dr John Tulloch of the University of Liverpool which highlights the high risk of injury faced by equine vets & nurses.

In response, CVS has introduced a mandatory helmet policy for all staff handling or treating horses. Colleagues have a choice of designs from riding helmets to specialist protective headwear worn by the emergency rescue services, but currently none are designed specifically for use by equine vets.

Some CVS equine vets, nurses, yard managers and safety experts recently met with representatives from the University of Liverpool and helmet manufacturer Uvex to explore possible helmet design, shared first-hand experiences and talked about the cultural change needed across the industry to make helmet wearing the 'norm'. They also learned from Uvex about safety standards and the rigorous testing behind protective helmets.



Upcoming events/offers:

Free visit for yards

We are now offering free visits if 4 or more horses are seen at the premises at the same time. Starting 01.10.25



Castration clinic

Thursday 02.10.25
Please call the office for further details. This offer does not include donkeys or miniatures.

Horses must be halter broken and under 3 yrs old

Acupuncture talk by Laura Trigg @ Manor Equestrian

Tickets can be purchased from the charity at Manor Equestrian
www.theflutterbyfund.com/ or from
www.myridinglife.com/

Poor Performance Package - includes;

- Gastroscope – with overnight stay and sedation
- Lameness assessment:
- Trot-up and flexion tests
- Lunging assessment on soft and hard surface

Price: £350. Runs from September until End of November.

Can be done at your yard if multiple horses booked and facilities allow.

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.

