



MacArthur Barstow & Gibbs Ltd  
36 Hanbury Road, Droitwich  
Worcestershire WR9 8PW  
01905 773262 [la@mbgvvet.com](mailto:la@mbgvvet.com)  
[www.mbgvet.com](http://www.mbgvet.com)

## Equine Newsletter – Spring 2016

### Horse Passports

All horses, ponies and donkeys must have a horse passport; this small booklet identifies your animal and declares whether for human consumption or not. You can declare that your animal isn't intended for human consumption by filling in the appropriate section of the passport. This cannot be changed at a later date. If you don't make the declaration in the passport, it's assumed the animal is intended for human consumption and all drugs ever given must be recorded therein. All horse passports issued since July 2009 must contain a microchip number. Microchip implantation in horses must be carried out by a vet.



### Zone Visits

These are discounted visits for routine appointments. In order for us to maximise efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint, we offer zone visits at £18. We cannot specify a time for you until the day and we cannot specify which vet will be coming out. On zone visits we cover vaccinations, passports, microchips and dental work. To keep administrative costs to a minimum, we will be asking you to pay at the time of booking your visit.

### Horse vaccinations

**Tetanus** - This is a disease that is most often fatal and can be picked up from soil contaminating a wound on the body or can even get in when a young horse is changing its teeth. The vaccinations for this comprise a primary course of two injections, four weeks apart, followed by a booster a year later, then every other year. These are often combined with influenza vaccinations.

**Flu** - Vaccination against flu is vital for all racehorses and horses competing at a high level.

To comply with jockey club/FEI rules-  
1st vaccination.

2nd vaccination after 21-92 days from 1st.

3rd vaccination after 150-215 days from 2nd.

Thereafter, annually with the last permissible day being the same date as the previous year's vaccination.

Vaccination with combined vaccines can be started at 4 months of age.

**\*\*\*STOP PRESS\*\*\***

**EQUINE INFLUENZA ISOLATED AROUND WORCESTER -  
CHECK YOUR HORSE IS PROTECTED**

**Herpes virus vaccination.** (Equine Herpes Virus EHV)

Herpes virus infection with EHV 1 and EHV 4 are closely related and can cause respiratory disease, abortion and neurological disease. They can be directly passed between horses or can lie dormant within animals.

All horses can be vaccinated against herpes virus from about 5 months of age, with a second vaccination 4-6 weeks later. Most often herpes vaccination is used in pregnant mares at 5, 7 and 9 months of gestation for prevention of abortion.

### West Nile Virus

This is a virus that causes encephalitis and is often fatal. It is mainly found in Africa and Eastern Europe but may emerge in Britain one day. It is spread by mosquitoes. It is possible to vaccinate your horse against it from 6 months of age with a second vaccine 3-5 weeks later and then annually.

### Dentistry in Horses

#### Why do horses need dental attention?

The shape of a horse's mouth is such that the top jaw (maxilla) is wider than the bottom jaw (mandible.) This anatomy, alongside the fact that horses' teeth continue to erupt throughout their lifetime, leads to sharp enamel points. These points occur on the outside on the top jaw pressing into the inside of the cheeks and on the inside on the bottom jaw causing damage to the tongue. These problems are exacerbated when the horse is wearing a bridle.

Some horses also have some malalignments in their jaws which will lead to some teeth not being worn down at the same rate. These teeth may need reducing regularly too. As a rule most horses need their teeth checking at least once yearly. Younger



horses tend to need treating more often as their teeth are more angular and points develop more quickly.

#### How are horses teeth treated?

For removal of sharp enamel points either tooth rasps are used by hand or mechanical rasps can be used. At MacArthur, Barstow and Gibbs we have an extensive array of hand rasps, a mechanical disc kit and also diastema widening and flushing facilities.

#### Who should check your horse's teeth?

At MacArthur, Barstow and Gibbs we have vets who are very interested in dental work and are very happy to examine your horse's teeth. We are equipped to deal with most dental problems and of course are able to sedate the horse to facilitate easier, less stressful and complete treatment. It is often very difficult to treat a horse properly unless it has been sedated.

The British Equine Veterinary Association has strict guidelines on who can perform certain procedures in a horse's mouth:

- If you currently use a dental technician please check the following website to ensure they hold the appropriate qualifications: <http://www.baedt.com>
- Certain procedures must only be performed by a veterinary surgeon, these include: tooth extractions, diastema widening, treatment of gum disease and filling teeth.
- Only vets and BAEDT qualified dental technicians are allowed to use motorised dental equipment, all other dental technicians can only use manual rasps.

- Wolf tooth removal must only be performed by a veterinary surgeon or by a BAEDT who must be fully supervised by a veterinary surgeon. This is to allow for pain relief and local anaesthetic to be administered.



Treatment using cimetidine tablets tends to reduce growth rate at best. As with sarcoids, we are seeing successful treatment using the laser. Suitable cases tend to be those with fewer growths that have not ulcerated but a remission period can be obtained in severe cases.



### **Skin Conditions**

It is amazing what appears as a horse loses its winter coat. Remember that sarcoids may have spread during the previous summer and then grown over the winter. Sadly this disease is common – it is a skin tumour which takes on many forms.

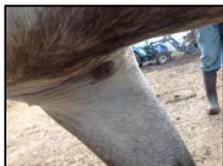
There are six different types – occult, verrucose, nodular, fibroblastic, malevolent and mixed. Some may look like warts and remain unchanged for many years; others, namely the malevolent type, grow rapidly and invade tissue deeply.



The commonest sites to find lesions are inside hind limbs, between front limbs, on the sheath and around the eyes.

Unfortunately 'once a sarcoid horse - always a sarcoid horse' since despite treatment, growths can recur.

To remove or not? If a sarcoid is likely to affect tack or rub on other parts of skin, it is prudent to attempt removal. Each case is different both in its growth rate and response to treatment, so there sadly is no guarantee of complete success. However, as there is evidence that sarcoids can be spread by biting flies to other susceptible horses, regular monitoring will help intervention at the correct time. We have been very impressed with laser removal followed by application of an anti-viral cream. There are also options of 'Liverpool cream', cryosurgery, surgical excision and ligation. Check your horse carefully as treatment is best done before the weather warms up and flies become a nuisance.



### **Sweetitch Control**

We are very excited by reports of a 'vaccine' which helps reduce the effects of Sweetitch. It requires two injections to be given within 2 weeks of each other and BEFORE any signs of itching. The product is 'off licence' so requires a consent form prior to use. Please speak to Anne or Zara regarding its use.

### **Parasites**

Lice are very active at this time of year having multiplied rapidly in thick winter coats. Watch out for the tiny brown creatures close to the skin especially visible when clipping. The key is to keep horses lice free during the whole year to prevent problems – they hide under the jaw, under the mane and between front limbs to avoid UV light. Treatment usually requires clipping and then insecticidal shampoo or spray.



### **Melanomas**

Melanomas are another type of tumour of the skin. They contain large numbers of melanocytes – the cells containing black pigment within the skin. Grey horses are usually affected although occasional cases occur in non grey animals. A common place to find these tumours is under the dock and around the anus.



### **Postcard from Alice our cover girl!**



Its been nearly five years since our cover girl Alice was born, so an update is long overdue!

The filly with attitude has been a patient twice with injuries to a back leg and a front leg.... no serious damage and minimal scarring thank goodness! She has however, learnt to be patient with box rest and bandaging – something that can be very challenging with a youngster. We have two products, Confidence and Calmex, designed to reduce anxiety when such accidents happen. We also have combinations of ACP paste and Diazepam tablets for the less settled horses. Alice has progressed from this to this.....



and is now being ridden.



### **Microchipping Dogs**

Microchip legislation comes into force on 6<sup>th</sup> April this year. All dogs should be microchipped by 8 weeks of age - any older dogs should be done as soon as possible. We can do them at the yard if required.

### **Staff News .....**

We are delighted to welcome Charlie Greenwood to our team. She will be covering both large and small animal work and comes with lots of experience. We are also very fortunate to be able to work with Bill Rosie who will join us two days a week. Bill's many years of experience with farm, equine and zoo animals will be invaluable.

Our locum Mike (the one who drowned our faithful 'spare car' in a well known ford) leaves us for pastures new and drier ground (!). He will be back to help out later in the year but in the meantime we wish him well.

We also welcome Miriam Lodewyks, who joins the small animal team and will be working at our branch surgery in Webbs of Wychbold, as well as at Droitwich.

Stephen Barstow continues to do more and more laparoscopic bitch speys. For outdoor working dogs especially this option is a great step forward with only the tiniest of wounds and minimal recovery time. Surgery is performed at our Claines surgery and can be booked through the Droitwich office.