Towcester
VETERINARY CENTRE

EQUINE

Plum Park Farm, Watling Street, Paulerspury,
Towcester, Northants NN12 6LQ

☎ 01327 811007

WINTER 2011/2012
NEWS

Practice News

We have increased our number of equine vets to six. So a big welcome to Tamrisk Leeming our new vet. Tam is a very keen rider and horse owner, not to mention proud owner of new mum "monster" the terrier.

New Discounted Zone scheme available for our new equine diagnostic unit

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday:
8.30am – 6.00pm

Saturday:
9.00am – 12.00pm

All other hours an equine vet will be available to answer any incoming calls or equine emergencies.

Don't forget we can keep you up to date by email so please ensure we have your correct email address.

THRUSH

What is thrush?

Thrush is an unpleasant infection of the horse's frog which is predisposed by moist, damp, dirty ground or stable conditions.

What causes thrush?

Thrush is an infection of the central and lateral sulcus of the frog of the horse's foot, most often involving bacterial infection, occasionally fungal infection. One species of bacterium (*Fusobacterium necrophorum*) is particularly aggressive, invading and destroying the frog, sometimes exposing the deeper sensitive tissues. Long heel conformation encourages the development of deep narrow frog sulci which are more prone to the development of thrush, if environmental conditions are right.

Deep infected cleft in frog associated with 'thrush'
Picture courtesy of S J Curtis, Newmarket

How is thrush diagnosed?

Thrush produces a foul smelling black discharge in the affected sulcus of the frog. There is pain on applying pressure to the area. The hind feet are more often affected than the front feet and, occasionally, infection may result in a general swelling of the distal (lower) limb.

How is thrush treated?

The horse should be moved to a dry clean environment. The foot should be thoroughly cleaned out, removing necrotic debris from within the affected frog sulcus, and then pared out down to healthy tissue, allowing air to reach any remaining damaged tissues. The frog and its sulcus should be scrubbed daily with dilute iodine solution.

Tetanus antitoxin must be given, if the horse is not fully vaccinated up-to-date or if vaccination status cannot be confirmed.

Thereafter, the horse should be kept in clean, dry stable conditions and the frog should be cleaned and treated regularly until the infection is controlled and the tissues heal.

How can thrush be prevented?

Prevention is better than cure and thrush can be avoided by good stable management, and regular foot care and inspection. Stable your horse in clean dry conditions and have your horses' feet regularly trimmed and shod to avoid the development of long heel conformation and to keep the frog healthy.

Caution

With early treatment and good stable and environmental management, the prognosis for complete recovery for cases of thrush is good. Treatment will usually be required for 7-14 days. The prognosis for complete resolution is good unless the infection has been allowed to become chronic and/or there is extensive involvement of deeper tissues.

Make sure that your horses are always fully vaccinated against tetanus, an invariably fatal infection which can gain access through a damaged frog.

Towcester Joint Aid

Towcester Joint aid is available at £65.50 plus vat for a 1kg pot which is equivalent to a daily feeding cost of 65p based on an average 500 kg horse. For pharmaceutical grade Glucosamine this represents excellent value for money.
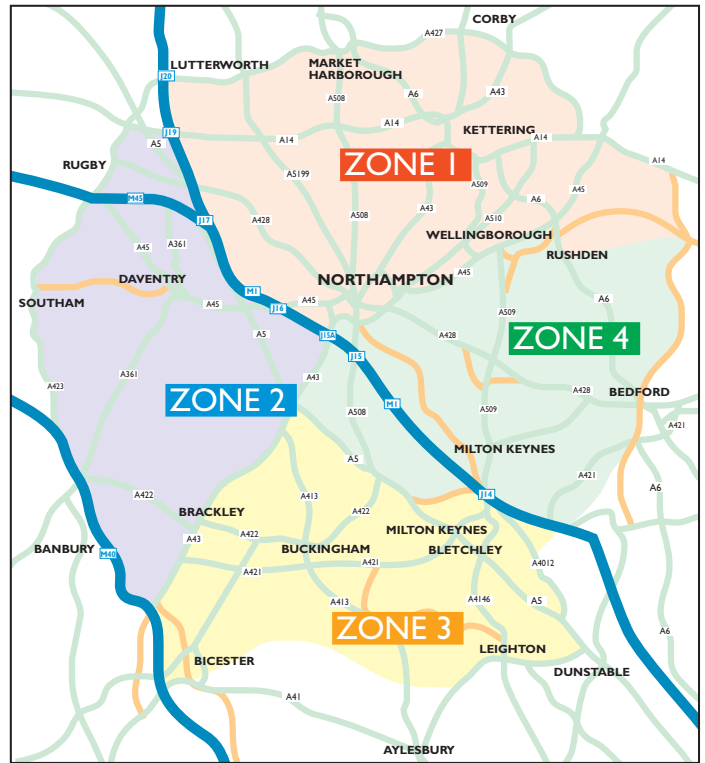

FREE VISIT SCHEME?

In addition to our usual services we offer a scheme whereby one of our equine vets will be working within a free visit zone. This means that on a regular day each week you will be able to book a visit for routine work within that zone and not incur any visit fee – you just pay for the treatment given. So with a little planning you can save money on vaccinations, teeth rasps, re-examinations, etc.

A "Free visit scheme" vet will be in your area one day a week. For more information or to make a booking give us a call on

01327 811007

Find your ZONE

Simply select a zone to have a more detailed map to help you know which day your FREE visit applies

EQUINE Mobile Diagnostic unit

NEW

- Digital Diagnostic equipment
- Reduced travelling for horse and owner
- Instant images
- Discounted ZONE scheme

Towcester
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Tel: 01327 811007
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