

Staff Changes and News



Lindsay Weight has joined the Tyrrell's team as our head receptionist. Lindsay has previously worked as a small animal veterinary receptionist in Bishops Stortford. Lindsay has ridden for most of her life and has previously owned her own horses. She has also completed a 2 year course in Equine Shiatsu (incorporating Chinese medicine). Outside work Lindsay is a vocalist in a band and enjoys Tai-chi. Lindsay will be taking over responsibility for all insurance claims as well as her main reception duties. Lindsay replaces Christine Prove who has left us in order to set up her own tea room, a lifelong ambition for Chris; we wish her well in her new venture.

Special Offers - First Aid Kits

Be prepared for winter and the forthcoming hunting season. The Tyrrell's first aid kit is available NOW, a smart kit containing all the essentials for dealing with wounds, foot abscesses and also contains a thermometer and emergency contact numbers. Special offer this autumn (1st September – 31st October) available at £20 (normal price £30).



Samantha Norman our equine nurse is expecting her first baby in November. Sam will be stepping back from her nursing and yard duties for the time being, and so we have Lucy Clark, who joins us from Newnham Court Equine Clinic in Kent, as our equine nurse. Lucy has her own horses Diesel and Charlie and enjoys riding her horses and sailing in her free time. Lucy has a BTEC diploma in equine nursing and is a welcome addition to the team.

Contact Details

Please ensure that we hold up to date contact details for you on our records – including any change of address (for you or your horse!), mobile phone numbers and email addresses. We will only contact you to notify you of any special offers, or important news. Checking your details will ensure we can contact you as necessary on the day of your visit, and also ensures that we can locate your horse quickly should an emergency situation arise.



Jason Tyrrell has completed his bike ride from London to Paris and has raised £1700 for Action Medical Research. Well done to Jason and all that took part! The Tyrrell's gastroscopy month raised £700 for the charity.



Weigh Bridge

The clinic is now equipped with a weighbridge which is available for your use. We will be charging a nominal fee of £3 + VAT per weighing. Please call the clinic to organise a time to pop in if you wish to use the scales. An accurate weight for your horse is extremely useful for those needing to monitor weight loss or gain, those with competition horses needing to maintain an ideal competition weight or for accurate dosing of drugs such as wormers, particularly in small ponies or donkeys which can be difficult to judge!

NEWS FLASH

Jane Lawson Payne has recently passed her exams and has gained a certificate in Equine Internal Medicine, huge congratulations to Jane; a well-deserved result after her many hours spent studying!



Disease Study – Grass Sickness

Equine dysautonomia (Grass Sickness) is a disease which we see in a handful of cases every year, particularly in the spring (April-June) and autumn (August- October).

The condition can affect all types and ages of horse and ponies, but is most often seen in younger animals (2-7 years) and older animals (18-21 years). Risk factors for this disease include recent changes of pasture (within previous 3-4 weeks), abrupt changes in weather conditions, grazing land with previous history of grass sickness cases, grazing land which has recently been harrowed or excavated and recent worming.

Clinical signs of the disease can vary widely, thus it can be difficult to definitively diagnose. Signs can include all or some of the following:

Acute Form:

- Mild/moderate colic
- Patchy sweating
- Reduced faecal output
- Drooping eyelids
- Muscle twitches
- Depressed demeanor
- Reduced/absent appetite
- Raised temperature
- Drooling saliva
- Raised heart rate (70-120 bpm)



Chronic Form:

- Weight loss
- Drooping eyelids
- Depression/lethargy
- Muscle twitches
- Reduced appetite
- Reduced faeces

The acute form of grass sickness has a duration of 1-2 days and is invariably fatal. The disease usually progresses to complete failure of gut motility, and the bowels distend rapidly with fluid.

The chronic form of grass sickness often presents as a progressive weight loss with colic signs not usually a feature. The disease may progress slowly (1-4 weeks), however the weight loss can be dramatic. More common causes of weight loss would need to be ruled out before a diagnosis of chronic grass sickness can be considered. Some cases of chronic grass sickness will recover, but intensive nursing over many months can sometimes be required.

The disease has tenuously been linked to a toxin found in soil (*clostridium botulinum infantatum* type C) and has definite geographic distribution – with most cases occurring in Scotland/North of England, or around the Newmarket area. The toxin may affect the nerve supply to the gut and thus preventing gut contents from passing through the horse. With the chronic form of the disease the intestine does not become completely paralysed.

Can We Prevent It?

Unfortunately there is no vaccine available, and only supportive treatment is possible – there is no medication to prevent or reverse the bowel paralysis or nerve damage once it has occurred.

The best advice is to avoid the risk factors where possible – do not graze new/young horse on pasture known to have cases of grass sickness in the past, supplementary feeding (hay/hard feed) of horses at grass 24/7 is thought to reduce the risk.

In most cases grass sickness is seen in isolated cases, often many years will pass between any fields producing a grass sickness case.

