



News from the Team

In January we ran our third annual collection for The Gambia Horse and Donkey Trust (GHBT) a small charity dedicated to improving welfare of horses and donkeys in Gambia by providing education, veterinary clinics and equipment. Many thanks to all our clients who kindly donated saddle cloths, head collars, florescent items and much more. As you can see from the picture the response was our best so far. The collection has now left the clinic and is on its way to the Gambia.



Also in January we said farewell to our super receptionist Kirstie who moved on to become office manager at a small animal practice. We wish Kirstie the best of luck! Joining the Tyrrells Team from April is extremely experienced receptionist and administrator Kim. Kim is a life long horse lover pictured here enjoying a riding holiday in Spain. Welcome Kim!



In February Jason saw our first foal of the 2016 foaling season. This beautiful thoroughbred filly foal arrived without issue and both mum and baby continue to do well. Our team is looking forward to welcoming more lovely foals as the season progresses.



Also in February both Tyrrells vet Juliette and vet nurse Maggie managed to get their horses out to their first fixtures of the year. Juliette took her WB x TB gelding Boodles to Arena UK in Grantham and completed a BE JAS class with a double clear. Whilst Maggie and her sports horse mare Clarissa took part in a arena eventer trial at Keysoe in Bedfordshire. We look forward to further successes from these combinations throughout 2016.

Introducing our new website

The brand new Tyrrells Equine Clinic Website launched this spring. The website contains details of the wide range of services we offer, shows the extensive facilities at our clinic, has informative fact sheets on a range of useful subjects and more. Please take a look at www.tyrrellsequine.co.uk



The screenshot shows the website header with the logo and navigation links: HOME, OUR PRACTICE, OUR SERVICES, CONTACT US, EMERGENCIES, INFORMATION AND NEWS. The main content area features a large image of a brown horse with a white blaze and the text: "Welcome to Tyrrells Equine Clinic based in North Hertfordshire". Below this is a "Welcome To Tyrrells Equine Clinic" section with a detailed description of the practice and a "What our clients say" section featuring a testimonial from a client.

Sweet Itch

As owners of horses affected by Sweet Itch will know the condition can present a real issue. Here we discuss the causes of Sweet Itch, it's prevention and a new treatment available.....

Sweet itch is a hypersensitivity reaction to the bite of a midge which causes skin irritation that leads to rubbing, scratching and biting, resulting in hair loss and skin damage. It can affect the entire body but the most commonly affected areas are the mane, tail and face. There is a seasonal pattern following the prime time of midge activity from March to November but severe cases can have signs all year round.

Diagnosis

Diagnosis can most often be made on the basis of clinical signs; seasonal, highly itchy skin disease leading to skin thickening and crusting around the mane and tail areas. More subtle cases can be diagnosed by allergy testing.

Treatment and Prevention

Traditional treatments are aimed at controlling the issue rather than providing a cure. Often a combined approach is required to achieve maximum benefit and should be implemented prior to the midge season to minimise clinical signs becoming established. Treatment options include –

- Preventing the midges biting those affected by stabling at times of highest midge activity (dawn and dusk) and providing turnout in well drained, windy areas away from large areas of water to avoid contact with high midge activity.
- Providing a physical barrier between midge and horse with the use of specialist closely fitting fly rugs which cover the mane and tail and which have a belly panel is often useful. Applying Vaseline to affected areas before rubbing has started can improve the skins function as a barrier may also help.
- Fly repellents containing DEET can be useful to repel midges
- Trying to stop the hypersensitivity reaction developing with the use of the following.
 - Topical lotions or creams for example Tea tree oil is often used as a natural anti-itch solution or creams/sprays containing steroid are very effective at stopping the itching.
 - Feed supplements such as Cavalesse can be effective at reducing the hypersensitivity reaction.
 - Oral steroids can be used in severe cases, there is a minimal risk of laminitis so this may not always be the best option.
 - Desensitisation using injections of increasing doses of allergens can be useful in horses that have had allergy testing.
- Preventing scratching by preventing access to fence post, gates etc. The use of electric fencing is usually the best way to achieve this.

A new treatment.....

There have been recent reports of a reduction in sweet itch symptoms with the use of a vaccination licensed for the treatment of Ring worm in horses. Although no formal scientific studies have been carried out into its use on sweet itch, anecdotal reports are encouraging. A course of 2 injections 2 weeks apart are required prior to the start of midge season. If you have horse or pony who suffers with sweet itch and would like to try this vaccine please contact the office on 01763 287744 / office@tyrrellsequine.co.uk for more details.

