

Shires Veterinary Practice Equine News

Shires Veterinary Practice

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Strangles

There have been several strangles outbreaks in the area this winter so I thought you all might like a quick summary of the disease.

Strangles is a disease of the upper respiratory tract caused by the bacterium *streptococcus equi*. Affected horses typically have a high temperature, cough, reduced appetite, nasal discharge and swollen lymph nodes ("glands") round the throat. In severe cases the infection can spread to other organs causing "bastard" strangles.

The infection is spread by direct contact between horses or via owners' hands, clothing, feed buckets etc. The incubation period is around 7 days and the bacteria can survive in the environment for several days.

Control of infection is achieved by isolating and treating infected horses and identifying any shedding or carrier status animals who must also be isolated. No animal should be moved on or off a yard where there is an outbreak until it has been brought under control. Strict hygiene measures must be put in place.

Confirmation of infection is carried out by culturing nasopharyngeal swabs, swabs of burst abscesses and guttural pouch flushes.

In order to be pronounced free from infection a horse must have had 3 clear swabs taken at 2 week intervals.

Finally the Animal Health Trust in Newmarket have developed a blood test for strangles. Whilst this test does NOT confirm the presence of disease it does flag up horses that are developing or have been exposed to strangles in the last 6 months. The beauty of this blood test is that it has a 24 hour turn round time and identifies horses that need swabbing.

If you think your horse may have strangles telephone the practice ASAP.



Shires Veterinary Practice provides your horse with a complete healthcare service all year round.

Services we offer include:

- Vaccinations
- Passport Applications
- Vettings
- Colt Castrations
- Dentistry
- Endoscopy
- Ultrasound
- X-ray
- Full 24 hour emergency cover to our clients

For help and advice 24 hours a day, please telephone 01785 813955

New Payment policy

Due to increasing bad debts we are following suit with the farriers and requesting payment at the time of every visit. We value all are clients and do not wish to offend anyone. Unfortunately in the current economic climate we can not manage to carry a large debt burden and so have reluctantly decided to take this course of action. With insurance cases we will request that the excess at least is paid up front.

Insurance

We would advise all our horse owners to get their animals insured. However you must take care to ensure that you choose the correct policy and right company for you. Do not rely on price comparison websites as the companies which come out on top are not always the best. Ask your friends and other people on your yard for their opinion.... Word of mouth is a very powerful tool!!

Contact us at:

Stone:

The Veterinary Surgery,
Eccleshall Road, Walton,
Stone, Staffs ST15 0HJ
01785 813955

Eccleshall:

The Veterinary Centre,
Stone Road, Eccleshall,
Staffs. ST21
01785 850218

Hanley:

01782 214683

Gnosall:

01785 823713

Loggerheads:

01630 673568

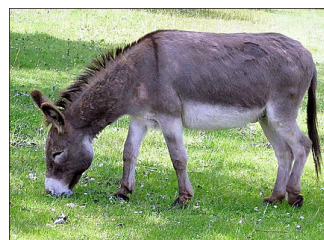
Calling all Donkey Owners....

Have you: Had your donkey's teeth checked in the last 12 months?
Had your donkey vaccinated against flu and especially tetanus recently?

Wormed your donkey in the last 3 months or had a faecal egg count done?

Had your donkey's general health checked by a vet in the last 12months?

If the answer to any of the above questions is "NO" please telephone us to arrange a visit.



Daily surgeries at:

Stone:

The Veterinary Surgery, Eccleshall Road,
Walton, Stone, Staffs ST15 0HJ
01785 813955

Eccleshall:

The Veterinary Centre, Stone Road,
Eccleshall, Staffs. ST21
01785 850218

Hanley:

Shires Vets Ltd, 92 Bucknall New Road,
Hanley, Stoke-on-Trent. ST1 2BE
01782 214683

Gnosall:

2A Newport Road, Gnosall, Staffs. ST20
01785 823713

Loggerheads:

Eccleshall Road, Loggerheads, Shropshire. TF9
01630 673568

**Please telephone for an
appointment**

New diseases Heading towards the UK....

There are two serious equine viral diseases getting ever closer to the UK: African Horse Sickness and West Nile Fever.

African Horse Sickness

is a highly infectious, often fatal disease of equidae. Historically it has been a disease of sub Saharan Africa however recently cases have been reported in morocco and Spain.

African horse Sickness is not spread directly between horses but is transmitted by biting insects such as mosquitoes. Symptoms are variable but include high fever, laboured breathing, cough, profuse nasal discharge and swelling of the lips and eyelids. There is no treatment.



West Nile Fever affects birds, horses and humans and is spread via the bite of infected mosquitoes. Migratory birds are thought to pose the greatest risk to the UK by bringing in the virus then passing it on via biting mosquitoes. Affected animals show depression, fever and neurological symptoms. Cases have been reported in southern France and I think The republic of Ireland. Again there is only supportive treatment no cure is available.

*Caring for your animals throughout
Staffordshire*

Both of the above diseases are Notifiable in the UK which means that DEFRA must be informed of suspected cases. If during the coming Spring and Summer you think your horse is showing signs of these conditions you must contact DEFRA or the practice ASAP.

ID Chips (Microchipping)

The best way of ensuring your horses identity is infallibly recorded is microchipping.

ID chips contain a unique reference number which is then registered against your details on a national database. The ID chip is placed just to the left of the crest at mid neck level. Scanners read the chip and reveal its unique number.

If your horse is not chipped, why not get one implanted at the same time as this years vaccination for **only £16.50?**

Please phone the office to arrange this.

STOP PRESS.....STOP PRESS.....

All foals born on or after 1st July 2009 will have to be microchipped by law

Our website is now fully functional, why not visit or contact us:

www.shiresvets.co.uk