



# Shires Veterinary Practice Equine News

Shires Veterinary Practice

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## General Health..

**Dental Issues:** Did you know that horses' teeth grow all the time in spite of age? This means that any misalignments between your horses teeth just get worse and worse with time unless dealt with. Signs of dental disease/ overgrowths include quidding, poor response to the bit, weight loss and swellings around the mouth.

John and Paul have both completed the British Equine Veterinary Association Advanced Dental Techniques course and can advise you on, and treat, any dental problems your horse may have. We have just purchased what we believe to be the best motorised dental equipment on the market to make dealing with large overgrowths easy.



**Worming:** It is essential that you have a robust procedure in place to minimise your horses' worm burden. There are two principal ways of controlling gut worms:

- Regular worming treatments with products such as **Equest** and **Equest Pramox**.
- Strategic worming—this means monitoring the actual worm burden your horse has:



- 1: Faecal egg counting to assess roundworms
- 2: Blood testing to quantify tapeworm levels
- 3: Daily 'Poo Picking'

If worms are detected then the appropriate treatment is given.

We can analyse faecal samples in our own laboratory

at Eccleshall, but we do need to send tapeworm blood samples to Leahurst (Liverpool Vet School) .

If you need advice about worming, please give John or Paul a ring or ask us when you see us on your yard.

**Winter Skin Diseases:** All the usual winter skin diseases are rearing their ugly heads again. Many owners are trying to treat these diseases with home grown potions..... with variable success. In order to achieve a cure, an accurate diagnosis is essential. Unfortunately, many of these conditions have a similar appearances to the untrained eye. The favourites this winter are:

- Ringworm
- Mud Fever
- Chorioptic Mange
- Staphylococcal Pyoderma

Chorioptic Mange Mite



If your horse is affected, a clinical examination followed by some simple in house laboratory work can achieve a diagnosis

## We have a new vet!



Ted Cutting qualified from Cambridge University this year and is keen to help Paul and John with the Equine caseload. He's young, keen, ready to go, has a full head of hair and isn't expanding at the waistline (as yet!). We're sure you'll make him very welcome.



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

### 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

### 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, Shrop-  
shire. TF9  
01630 673568

**Please telephone for an  
appointment**

## *Insurance - is your pet covered?*

Did you know that insurance is available for dogs, cats and rabbits, at very little cost, and with easy monthly payments?

Each year, on average one pet in three will require veterinary treatment for illness or accidents. As treatments become more complex and sophisticated, costs inevitably rise and on many occasions may become a limiting factor.

We naturally tend to think of traumatic surgical events - such as accidents involving broken bones - as the main reason for pet insurance. However, in addition, many medical conditions, such as deep seated skin or ear infections, arthritis and diabetes (to name but a few!), can often be equally costly to treat in the longer term.

With pet insurance, you have the peace of mind that should your much loved pet become ill, he or she can have the treatment they require, without compromise, and without you having to worry about the cost of the treatment.

An additional benefit of pet insurance is third party cover. Should your dog stray and cause a road traffic accident, you could be held liable. In this situation, pet insurance should cover both the treatment of your pet and any third party claims.

If you would like further information on the benefits of insuring your pet, please ask any member of your practice staff or contact us.

Caring for your pet throughout Staffordshire

## **New Vets**

We are pleased to welcome Sarah Walker and Ted Cutting to the practice.

Both are here to undertake mixed practice duties

Sarah is a local lass from Stafford, whilst Ted comes from further afield....Tamworth.

They will be seen at Stone on a week on/week off alternating basis (ie you'll see Ted one week and Sarah the next)

## ***Should I have my rabbit neutered?***

Neutering is an operation carried out under a general anaesthetic and can be performed from about four months of age onwards. Female rabbits (does) are "spayed" - an operation that involves the removal of both ovaries and the uterus. Male rabbits are castrated - an operation that involves the removal of both testicles.

Apart from preventing unwanted pregnancies, there are several other benefits to having your rabbit neutered. Neutered rabbits are usually calmer, less prone to destructive or aggressive behaviour, and can be kept in social groups without fighting. Finally, since neutering removes the reproductive organs, they are protected from cancer of these organs. Please ask your vet or contact us for further details.

Our website is currently being updated. Why not visit us soon at:

[www.shiresvets.co.uk](http://www.shiresvets.co.uk)