



# Swanspool Veterinary Clinic



## News

Firstly we would like to thank everyone who attended our latest evening talk at Moulton College. With a huge turnout we managed to raise £172.10 for the Northants and Warwickshire Air Ambulance who have gratefully received our donations. Pictures and videos are on our website.

### Evening Talks

As many of you will be aware we have had several evening talks in the past year. These have included "Care of the senior horse", "Emerging equine diseases", "Sweet-itch" and "Laminitis", all held next to the practice at Wellingborough museum. Last month's talk as mentioned above was "Fit not Fat" given by Pat Daly and presented in conjunction with the Moulton physiotherapy and rehabilitation centre and included a swimming and treadmill demo. For further talks please check our exciting new website. Talk subjects for 2012 are:



- **Colic**
- **First Aid**
- **Dentistry**
- **Anatomy** – Dates and order to be confirmed.

### Website

We are in the process of building and expanding a dedicated website for our clients. It will include relevant news bulletins, details of offers, advice sheets and upcoming events, together with the usual information about services and staff. Log onto [www.swanspoolequine.com](http://www.swanspoolequine.com)

### Worm Egg Counts

We now offer a service for the testing for faecal eggs at just **£8.38**. As we strive to reduce the development of 'resistance to wormers' we are encouraging all clients to test and then strategically treat only those needing wormers. In some cases a follow up test is recommended if resistance is suspected. Please contact the surgery for more details.

### Staff Updates

It gives us great pleasure to introduce to you Sarah Smyth MRCVS. Having qualified from London Vet School in 2009, Sarah worked in an equine and farm practice in Norfolk until August 2011. With her interests in respiratory and racing medicine she is now an important member of our four vet team.

Also a quick update that Katie has settled in well at her new practice in the peak district and Helmi's own business has taken off well and is now thriving back in Holland. Also sadly Herman and Felicea have fulfilled their ambition to return back to South Africa. We wish them all the best for the future.



# Special Offers



**“Three for Free”:** Bunch together three or more horses on the same yard and get no visit charge when booked 24hours in advance.

**“Any Vet, Any Time”:** For non-emergency calls why not try our AVAT offer and get a free call-out within the following 5 working days. To reduce fuel consumption we will contact you the day before the intended visit date and schedule you into our rounds.

**Dental / vaccination bundle:** Routine dental charges are now fixed at £45. However when combined with a vaccination, on the same horse, the dental charges are discounted to only £30. (Sedation not included)

Terms and conditions apply; please call the surgery for more details.

## MANAGING DUST IN YOUR STABLE

As it's coming into winter, owners are more inclined to stable their horses for longer periods. However contrary to popular belief the horse was never designed to live inside, be bedded on straw and fed on hay! Whether your horse clinically suffers from allergies or not, dust management is very important in the winter months. Prevention is better than cure, and much cheaper! Dust management includes controlling the dust (spores) in the feed, bedding and improving ventilation. Any bedding or hay, no matter how professionally prepared, will have some dust but we can do much to help minimise its exposure to our horse's lungs.

1. **Immersing** hay in water for only 30 minutes can reduce airborne dust by up to 60%.
2. **Improving** ventilation and changing stable management from straw to dust free bedding can significantly reduce dust by up to 73% in your stable and 63% in adjacent stables, if sharing a common airspace.
3. **Turn out** susceptible horses whilst bedding down and store feed and bedding material in a separate part of the block.
4. Use of a **proper Hay Steamer** can also be very effective, (or haylage which is a bit more expensive).

One must remember that soaking hay can reduce some sugars and minerals by up to 50%, useful if your pony has laminitic tendencies but not if your horse is in hard work. Properly steamed hay, for example in a HAYGAIN Hay Steamer\*, is very palatable with no loss of nutrients, virtually completely dust free, does not drip water everywhere and has been scientifically shown to remain 98% bacteria and 100% fungal spore free for 24 hours. Of course veterinary products like asthma inhalers and “Ventipulmin” are also very effective but expensive. Remember, prevention is better than cure, and much cheaper. \*[www.haygain.co.uk](http://www.haygain.co.uk)

### OPENING HOURS

Daily Call Outs 9am-4pm

Late Visits 4pm- 6.30pm

Special Visits 6.30pm – 9am

Routine visits should be booked in advance and requested where possible within the times of 9am – 4pm.

We offer a 24hr, 7 days a week, 365 days a year emergency service. Please call our usual number

**01933 222145**

## RECENT CASE NEWS – STANDING SURGERIES

We have recently been required to perform a couple of standing surgeries in order to resolve cases of sinusitis infections. Both horses presented with a nasal discharge from one nostril with a distinctive smell. X-rays proved that the cause of the discharge was a sinusitis associated with a tooth root infection. In horses the back 4 upper cheek teeth have their roots within the frontal sinus, hence a tooth root infection can tract up into the sinus.

Often the infection will not resolve without removing the offending tooth and flushing the sinuses. Removing cheek teeth can be a long (and frustrating!) job, taking anything from a couple of hours to a full day. In order to achieve adequate flushing of the sinus, it can be flushed through for 10 days.

As this procedure requires a lengthy period of sedation, the appropriate facilities including a set of stocks are required to stand the horse in. Fortunately one of our clients kindly lent us the use of her stocks and stables in order to perform both operations. Both procedures went very well and we will be removing the indwelling catheters in the next couple of weeks.



## CURRENT INFORMATION – ATYPICAL MYOPATHY

We would like to bring to your attention that we are still seeing cases of “Atypical Myopathies” and referral hospitals have also recently reported an increase in cases. The disease stems from horses grazing on warm, leafy fields which allow toxins to breed amongst the vegetation. Early recognition of symptoms can provide a much quicker diagnosis. We anticipate that after a heavy frost, the risk of disease will be greatly reduced but still the disease process is not fully understood. Therefore we would like to draw your attention to the clinical signs, which can be commonly mistaken for colic.

- Sweating
- Respiratory Distress
- Reluctance to walk
- Lethargy when ridden
- Frenzied Vocalisation
- Choke – like retching neck spasms when feeding
- Dark coloured urine

If you are suspicious at all please call us and we will then be able to advise you further.

**ON BEHALF OF THE WHOLE EQUINE  
TEAM WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU  
ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A  
HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**

