



Weight Wise

If you are struggling or unsure about how to manage your horses weight then why not consider joining our 'Weight Wise' scheme; which includes tailored advice on diet, management, exercise, along with regular weight assessments and body conditions scoring to help reduce, increase or maintain your horse weight . We are also able to discuss and assess any potential underlying endocrine disease, such as Equine Metabolic Syndrome or Cushing's Disease which may be contributing to weight management issues and increasing the risk of laminitis. Please contact the Barn and speak to one of the veterinary or nursing team for more information.

First Aid Course

We held a first aid course on Saturday 19th May. This was held at The Barn, with lectures given by Sophie and Amy on 'Emergency and basic first aid' and 'Wound management and bandaging'. We then spent several hours in the glorious sun demonstrating and allowing all participants to 'Have a go' at bandaging all possible body parts on some of the teams obliging and patient horses and ponies.



What happens when my horse needs to stay at the Barn?

Many horses and ponies come to stay with us at the Barn for the day or for several days, either due to needing a day procedure or diagnostics, or for treatment of an illness or injury.

Our fabulous nursing team are responsible for all in-patients, ensuring your horse receives the best quality care whilst with us.



Your horse will be kept in one of our 12 stables, on a deep dust free shaving bed, and fed according to their normal management and their underlying condition and additional needs.



University of Surrey

We have become partners in clinical education with the university of Surrey School of Veterinary Medicine. We will have visiting final year students on four week clinical teaching placement rotations with us.



GDPR

Since May 25th the new GDPR regulations have come into effect. We would love to be able to keep in touch with you and be able to send you reminders for vaccinations, dentistry, along with newsletters, details on clients evenings and open days, as well as promotional offers like our castration and dental clinics. To enable us to do this we simply ask you to update your preference settings via the link on our website <http://barnequine.co.uk/electronic-communication-consent/>.

Ellingham Show

The Barn will be in attendance on Saturday 11th August providing veterinary cover for all the horses, ponies and donkeys present. We will also have a stand alongside the equine show rings where you can meet the team, enter competitions and quizzes, participate in apple bobbing, weigh your horse or pony, and accept a complimentary glass of Prosecco when you update horse and contact details. We look forward to seeing you all!

We weigh all our in-patients on our weigh bridge to ensure that their weight is managed appropriately and accordingly. We have larger stables to allow enough space for our bigger patients, our mare and foals, and for any donkeys to be housed with their companions. We also have two stables with a window to allow any companions to be housed separately but able to see each other.



We have the ability to isolate and barrier nurse any infectious or potentially infectious patients. Turnout in our paddock or arena is possible for those requiring quiet gentle exercise or grazing during rehabilitation.

In-patients are examined by our nursing team according to their needs and condition, either twice daily as standard or hourly in critically ill patients. Each patient has their own clipboard and record sheets, and notes are recorded on vital parameters and general demeanour, along with more detailed clinical notes on the individual condition as required. Each horse has an individual treatment sheet which is produced and updated daily by the vet in charge of the case, ensuring that your horse's treatment is tailored and managed appropriately.

New Arrivals

We are pleased to introduce Ellie Sherriff, our new practice administrator. Ellie will be based on reception, where she will be answering the phone and sorting out your appointments, trying to ensure the vets are in the right place at the right time (which is not an easy task!), and dealing with any other enquiries you may have. Ellie is a keen horsewoman, and enjoys showjumping with her mare, Fifi.



Equinosis Lameness Detector

We have just taken delivery of an Equinosis® Q system, along with Lameness Locator® software. This is a real-time, handheld, field-based system that will enable us vets to objectively identify lameness in horses with non-invasive inertial sensors.

The system is simple and fast taking less than 3 minutes, with three small sensors attached to the horse's head, pelvis and right forelimb using specially designed attachment devices.



Equinosis wireless sensors measure up to 20x faster than the human eye, tracking movement accurately to within millimetres, making the system accurate, sensitive and precise - something hugely helpful and necessary when assessing multi-limb lameness and low grade lameness and performance issues.

The Lameness Locator analysis uses the motion data transmitted by the sensors and algorithms developed



from many years of research, which utilised treadmills and high-speed cameras to mathematically characterise normal and impaired gait, measuring vertical acceleration of the torso to determine asymmetries in head and pelvic position between left and right halves of stride at the University of Missouri. Translational research then adapted the analysis to be used as a convenient, robust, miniaturised system in the field.

Sweet Itch

Insect bite sensitivity (IBH) is a chronic recurrent seasonal dermatitis known to affect between 5-50% of horses depending on their location, breed and genetics. This allergic response is in response to the *Culicoides* species, or common midge. The midge saliva contains allergens which enter the horse's body during the insect feeding/biting and results in an immune reaction. Other biting insects can cause immune responses that cause similar clinical signs, but it is the *Culicoides* midge that is associated with IBH.

Culicoides are found in greatest numbers in hedged or wooded pasture, especially if static water (ponds, boggy ground etc) is present.

Clinical signs vary according to geographical location, habitat control, management issues, nutrition, genetics and previous exposure, and include severe pruritus over the mane, tail, head, ventral/lower abdomen, papules, tufted hair or changes in hair structure, and self excoriation/hair loss.

Often horses will appear to get worse on each consecutive season and thus prevention of insect bites and management of the condition is essential.



Tips to control, resolve, and prevent

1. Use of **topical insect repellents** - pyrethroid based, 2% permethrin ie SWITCH.
2. Use of **insect rugs** - ie BOET or Rambo Sweet Itch Hoody. Rugging has been seen to reduce clinical signs of sweet itch in 49% cases.
3. **Stabling at dawn and dusk**; which has been seen to reduce clinical signs in 59% cases.
4. **Manage pasture** to allow a more open windy space with fewer trees and hedges, and also allow a reduction in standing water present.
5. **Topical medication**, often containing benzyl benzoate, to reduce itching
6. Oral medication of **steroids (prednisolone or dexamethasone)** can be used to help stop the itch-scratch cycle of the condition once it has started.
7. **Anti-histamines** have limited effect but may be used as adjunctive therapy in some cases.
8. **Antibiotics**, either as topical shampoos, or as systemic medication in severe cases, may be indicated if secondary bacterial infection is present due to self harm and excoriation.
9. **Fatty acid supplementation**, or flaxseed oil, may be a useful adjunct to therapy.
10. **Immunotherapy** may be useful in those horses that have shown a positive response to intra-dermal skin testing, but should not be relied on as a sole treatment.