

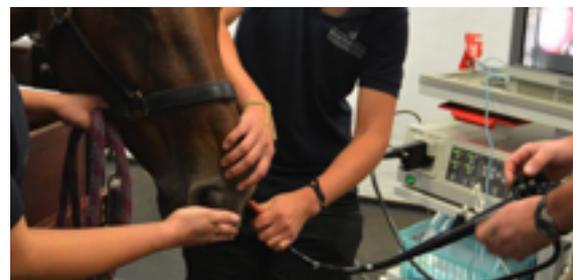
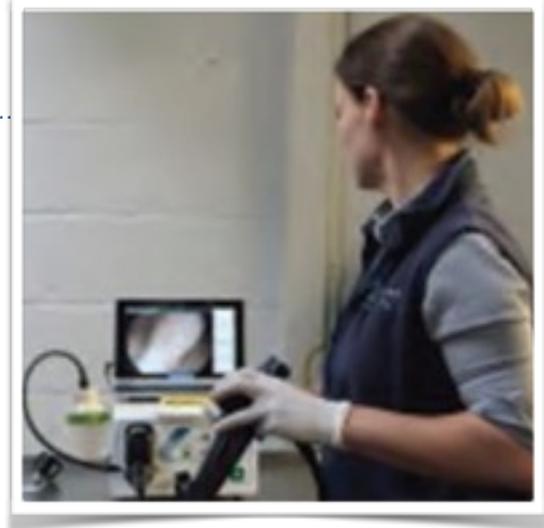


Gastroscopy - The Facts!

Gastric Ulcers are common in horses and can effect all breeds and types, from companions to high performance competition horses, and from Welsh Section A's to Warmbloods.

The effect of ulceration may be highly variable, but are believed to be associated with weight loss, changes to eating behaviour, poor performance, and colic, or they may be asymptomatic, or with few ill effects, The only accurate and reliable way to diagnose gastric ulceration is by gastroscopy, which allows examination of the stomach and allows any severe ulceration to be graded based on its location, severity and depth.

Gastroscopy is performed under sedation. The 3.3m gastroscope is a flexible fibre optic camera, which is passed up one of the nostrils and is then swallowed by the horse to allow passage into the stomach. Once inside the stomach, the scope allows the stomach to be inflated with air to allow full examination and the gastroscope is manoeuvred to examine different regions of the stomach.



The procedure is well tolerated by the horse and takes around 20mins. Horses are ready to travel home when the sedation has begun to wear off (usually after about 30mins). We ask that the patient is starved for at least 14hrs before the appointment, and we ask that water is withheld for 2hrs before the procedure, as the stomach cannot be fully examined if food or water is present. Both food and water can be made available to the horse as soon as the effects of the sedation have worn off. there are rarely any untoward side effects of gastroscopy,

New Additions

We welcome a new member of the veterinary team:

Rachel Jewers



Rachel has joined us from Bovington Equestrian Centre. and is our latest addition to the yard and nursing team. Rachel has a wealth of horse handling and riding knowledge, and will be attending The Open College of Equine Studies as part of her training to become a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

Squamous ulcers

These affect the white top third of the stomach, and reflect increased acid exposure of the tissue. Their correct name is Equine Squamous Gastric Disease. Ulcers form quickly, and are consistently associated with changes in appetite, slowed eating and poor performance.

Inconsistent changes in behaviour/attitude can also occur.

Squamous ulcers occur with daytime forage deprivation, lack of access to water, high starch diets, pelleted feeds, straw feeding, intense exercise, change in housing, transport, and lack of daily horse-horse contact. Treatment with an equine formulation of the acid suppressant drug omeprazole is consistently very effective, with the majority of lesions healing within 21-28 days.



Glandular ulcers

These affect the pink bottom 2/3 of the stomach, in particular the final 1/3 called the antrum. Their correct name is Equine Glandular Gastric Disease. Ulcers form slowly and reflect failure of the mucus coat that protects glandular



tissue from acid. The clinical signs are more variable, and may or may not include appetite change/weight loss. In some horses development of resentment to girthing may occur, but this is not specific. The mechanism of failure of the mucus coat is unknown, but could be physical (coarse alfalfa), toxic (drugs or plants), or physiological (altered mucus constituents). Treatment is again with omeprazole, however greater success has been seen with injectable rather than oral, which is why this different route of administration is chosen. Occasionally other medications may also be used therapeutically. .

Throughout April The Barn is holding **Gastroscopy Month** with discounted gastroscopies for **only £140 inc . VAT**. Contact Helen Christian MRCVS for more details or call our Reception team on 01202 823512 to book your gastroscopy appointment now.

New Additions cont...

Sophie Copley-Moorby



Sophie has joined the veterinary team. The Royal veterinary College, Sophie undertook an internship at the University of Bristol Equine Hospital, where she was involved in the care and management of all surgical and medical cases admitted. Following this, Sophie joined the equine ambulatory team there. Sophie has so far settled into life in the New Forest and The Barn, and is planning on bringing her horses down to make the most of having such fabulous riding on her doorstep!

Thursday Dental Clinics

Due to their fantastic success Amy continues to offer this dental service. For only **£75 inc VAT** your horse or pony's mouth will be thoroughly examined, under a light level of sedation, using our oroscope camera allowing you to see inside their mouth, hopefully understanding what we are looking for and identifying when we perform an oral exam, and then being able to see what we are doing and the results obtained whilst we perform any rasping that may be required.

Amy is an Advanced Practitioner in Equine Dentistry, holding a Certificate in Equine Dentistry and is a member of and examiner for the British Association of Equine Dental Technicians, and performs the majority of the routine and advanced dentistry at the Practice.



Worming

With a mild wet winter we are noticing quite marked worm burdens in some of our patients, and an increasing number of worm related colics. The Barn offer comprehensive worming packages, including the traditional drug-based programme, and the more environmentally friendly targeted worming programme which features regular faecal worm egg counts to monitor

individual animals worm burdens, and tailored worming as required according to results. We are recommending that clients contact us at the Practice or have a chat during their next vet visit to discuss their 2018 worming needs





**THE BARN
EQUINE
SURGERY**

UPCOMING EVENTS

To secure your
place, call
01202 823512 today!

WEDNESDAY MARCH 21ST GASTROSCOPY EVENING

An evening on the causes, treatment and management of Gastric Ulcers
St Leonards Hotel, 7.30pm.

THROUGHOUT APRIL GASTROSCOPY MONTH

Back by popular demand, we will be offering discounted Gastrosopes
throughout the whole of April. Only £140 inc VAT!

FRIDAY APRIL 19TH STUD EVENING

An informative evening here at The
Barn for all your foaling queries!

SATURDAY MAY 19TH FIRST AID COURSE

Join us for a new and informative
iterative course here at The Barn on
essential first aid for horses!
Spaces limited!

SATURDAY 11TH AUGUST ELLINGHAM SHOW

We are back at Ellingham show this
year! Come say 'Hi' and grab
yourself a free glass of prosecco!

COMING UP THIS AUTUMN

Look out for the following events being held this
Autumn:

- Gastroscopy Month
- Castration Clinic

PosterMyWall.com Golden Oldies Client Evening

