



Janette Palliser MRCVS
Kings Bounty Equine Practice
Kings Bounty, Church Street, Binsted, Alton, Hampshire, GU34 4NX

2013 Newsletter

Welcome to Kings Bounty Equine Practice!

It has been 4 years since Janette established the practice at Kings Bounty. After expanding to two vets earlier this year, many of you are probably aware that the practice has now been rebranded to 'Kings Bounty Equine Practice'. This will have little effect on the day to day running of the practice, we will continue to deliver the same personal service that we feel our clients deserve.

New supplement

Earlier in the year we launched a number of veterinary supplements that have been specifically formulated for the practice, including joint, hoof and gastric supplements. We have been extremely pleased with the results we have seen in clinical cases so far and have received excellent feedback. We are now pleased to be able to offer a new electrolyte supplement in addition to the other products. Electrolyte losses can be considerable during periods of exertion and it is essential to replace these in the diet. Our supplement has been scientifically formulated to ensure that electrolytes lost through sweating are replaced and metabolic imbalances are avoided. For more information on all our supplements please see the 'products' section of the website

Atypical Myopathy Cause Identified

Atypical myopathy is a severe, often fatal disease of horses in the UK and Northern Europe. It results in the destruction of skeletal, respiratory and cardiac muscles. Clinical signs include weakness, muscle tremors, lethargy, dark coloured urine and increased periods of lying down with a reluctance to stand. Even with intensive treatment many affected horses do not survive. Outbreaks of the disease most commonly occur in the Autumn.

For many years the disease has been linked to pasture, with more than one horse on a premises being affected and with cases occurring in horses kept on sparse pasture. Until recently the exact cause was unknown. Earlier this year, scientists from the University of Minnesota identified a link between the disease and the Box Elder Tree (*Acer negundo*) which is found in the USA. A subsequent European study has concluded that toxins from the seeds of the Sycamore tree (*Acer*

pseudoplatanus) are the likely cause of Atypical Myopathy in European countries. The seeds from a Sycamore tree are



commonly known as 'helicopters'. Further studies have confirmed the presence of the Sycamore tree in the pasture of 12 confirmed cases of the disease. The concentration of the toxin (hypoglycin A) in the seeds varies between seeds from the same pasture and even from the same tree. It is likely that cases occur in situations where there is a high availability of the seed in the field, combined with a lack of adequate grazing or supplementary forage.



To reduce the risk of disease it is advised to avoid grazing horses on fields containing Sycamore trees where possible. If this is unavoidable then measures should be taken to avoid overgrazing the pasture and plenty of supplemental forage should be provided if necessary. Areas where sycamore seeds have fallen from trees can be fenced off and reduced turnout during the at-risk period of October to December should be considered.

Congratulations to Mel and Pebbles

This time last year Pebbles suffered a horrific injury in the field that almost cost him his life. He managed to stake himself on a fence post behind his elbow and lost litres of blood. Janette attended the scene immediately and managed to stop the bleeding in time to get him transported to a hospital facility. After a stay in hospital where he received intensive treatment including a blood transfusion, Pebbles returned home for a long period of nursing and recuperation.



We are delighted to report that after a long recovery, all the hard work has paid off as Pebbles has made a full return to his full athletic capability, including a 4th place at an event this summer!
