

## Winter Newsletter 2015/2016

### Latest News

#### Well done Sarah, Sadie and Maizy!



Congratulations to Sarah Tyler's, River Rise Escarla aka Maizy, and her rider Sadie Smith after a fantastic year on the dressage circuit. The talented duo did tremendously well last year and made it into the 'Horses of the year' section, in the December edition of Horse and Hound, alongside horses like 'Valegro'. We wish them all the best for 2016!



#### Kings Bounty Join Facebook

The start of 2016 has seen the launch of the Kings Bounty Equine Practice Facebook page. We invite you all to visit, like and share the page. Please don't forget to continue visiting our website too, where you can find all the information you need to know about the practice and helpful downloads to help you care for your horse. The website can be found at [www.kingsbountyequine.co.uk](http://www.kingsbountyequine.co.uk).



#### The Kings Bounty Belles Are Flying!

The *Kings Bounty Belles* (see picture above right) had a brilliant season at various Team Chases last year. The Belles stepped it up a notch at their last outing, competing in the Intermediate class rather than Novice, and came a fantastic 4<sup>th</sup>! The *Kings Bounty Hunters* and *Kings Bounty Beaux* also did brilliantly well, all going clear! Keep an eye out on the website for the 2016 dates!

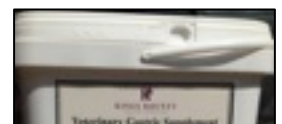
#### Half Marathon Success!

Well done to Steffi and Sara who successfully completed the Oxford Half Marathon on Sunday October 11<sup>th</sup>! The girls managed to raise £805 in total for their two charities: Myositis UK and The Gambia Horse And Donkey Trust, exceeding their goals for each charity! The girls would like to thank anyone again who donated.



#### Supplements Galore!

Don't forget that Kings Bounty Equine Practice has it's own range of **veterinary supplements**. All the supplements have been laboratory tested and DO NOT test positive under FEI rules, making them perfect for the competition horse! Please feel free to contact us or visit our website if you would like more information on these and pricings.



## Up and Coming Events

### This Month: Gastroscopy Special!

During the month of **February** we are offering Gastroscopy at your yard at discounted rates. This is **£199+VAT** per horse, with a **free visit if 3 or more horses** are gastroscoped at the same appointment. If you would like to know more about this offer, please contact the office or vets directly for more information!



### Pus in the foot – Your Questions answered!

*(Please visit the client downloads section of our website for more information on this.)*

**What actually is a hoof abscess?** A localised accumulation of pus located between the layers of the hoof wall.

**Why do they occur?** Foreign material i.e. gravel, coupled with infectious organisms i.e. bacteria, gain entry through the hoof capsule and initiate an abscess. Infection enters the hoof in one of three ways:

1. Through a break or fissure in the white line.
2. A misplaced nail or a puncture wound somewhere in the solar surface of the foot.
3. Through a full thickness hoof wall crack or multiple old nail holes.



**White Line**

**Why is my horse so lame?** The acute onset, severe lameness is caused by the accumulation of fluid and inflammation, exerting increased pressure on the sensitive tissues

**How is it diagnosed?** The vet will usually reach a diagnosis after observing clinical signs, applying hoof testers and examining the sole of the hoof with careful paring. Radiographs are sometimes warranted in on-going cases.

#### **How is it treated?**

- The aim of treatment is to establish drainage of the abscess. This is achieved when the vet opens up a draining tract leading to the abscess. If this cannot be found then foot poultices and foot baths containing Epsom Salts are used to soften the hard horn to help the emergence of infection.
- The foot needs to be kept clean and dry until infection and inflammation is eliminated.
- Shoes are to be replaced when the area is dry and has hardened off.
- Pads or hospital plates are sometimes needed if large areas are affected.
- Horse should be covered for Tetanus.

**Does my horse need any drugs?** Tetanus cover is crucial. Antibiotics are RARELY needed and are usually contraindicated. They can prolong clinical signs and prevent the abscess from draining. Antibiotics are only ever used if infection is severe or deeper structures have been penetrated. Pain relief in the form of NSAIDs may sometimes be warranted.

**Why can abscesses sometimes burst out of the Coronary Band?** If abscesses are left untreated, they will take the path of least resistance up the white line and eventually burst out of the coronary band.

**Does my horse have a good prognosis?** Prognosis is usually excellent. Prognosis decreases if complications develop in which deeper structures of the foot are involved.

**How can I prevent hoof abscesses from forming?** There are conditions that cause mechanical breaks or weakness in the continuity of the white line. Excessive dryness or moisture may also contribute to weakness in the white line. The key is to promote a strong, solid white line that resists the penetration of debris. This is achieved with good trimming by your farrier and a good diet containing zinc, methionine and biotin. These can be found in our hoof supplement.