

Winter Newsletter 2019

Latest News

We would like to wish everyone a belated happy new year and all the best for 2019. Thank you to all our lovely clients for the cards and generous gifts we received over the festive period - they were very much appreciated. The month of December was action packed!



We managed to escape Alcatraz at Houdini's Escape Rooms for our Christmas party, we cheered on and sponsored Alfie Diaper with his Shetland pony Lily in The Shetland Grand National at Olympia, supporting the Bob Champion Cancer Trust and we announced our winners of the Kings Bounty Christmas Picture Quiz! The clinical spotlight this newsletter is all about tackling equine obesity – a serious issue in the equine world which has even made national news as seen on the BBC breakfast show!



Equine Influenza (Flu) – The Importance of Vaccinating your horse!

There has been a rise in the number of reported outbreaks of Equine Influenza (EI) in Europe and UK over the past couple of months. Some of the outbreaks have been in VACCINATED horses. EI is an extremely contagious infectious respiratory disease of horses that can spread rapidly due to transmission being *airborne or via direct contact* with the virus. **Vaccinating your horse aims to limit the signs of infection rather than prevent exposure.** Vaccinated horses can still shed the virus to infect non-vaccinated horses which will most likely show clinical signs such as:



- Harsh dry cough,
- Increased temperature which can make them dull, inappetent and lethargic
- Clear/ white nasal discharge
- Increased lymph nodes in the throat.



EquiBioSafe

Complications of infection with EI include **secondary bacterial infection** which can ultimately lead to **pneumonia** which is very serious.

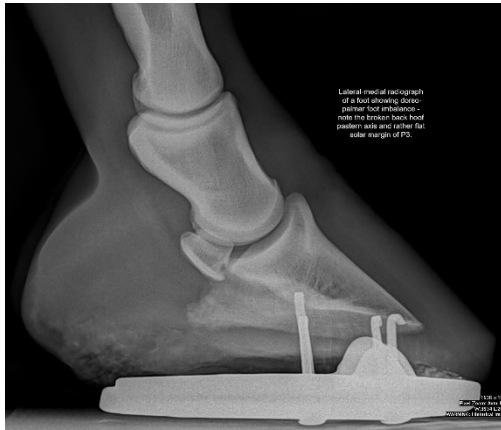
The influenza virus has the ability to change over time which is why vaccines are constantly being updated. **We urge clients to ensure their horses vaccinations are kept up to date.** EI can be particularly severe, especially in those animals with a compromised immune system e.g. old, ill, stressed. If you suspect any signs of EI, please contact us immediately.

Biosecurity is paramount when dealing with outbreaks of infectious diseases like EI to try and reduce the spread of infection. The **EquiBioSafe App** can be downloaded for free in the event of an outbreak to help owners understand biosecurity measures that need to be put in place.

You know the saying - No Foot, No Horse!

Just a reminder to advise that we have recently reduced our price of **foot balance radiographs** (2 views per foot) to **£175+VAT** (excluding visit and sedation) due to the increased demand we have had for them by our clients.

A lot of horses are often sound even with foot imbalance, however, continued imbalance can predispose to orthopaedic issues and can lead to lameness, therefore striving for optimal foot balance with your horse can help reduce the risk of injury!



Insurance Claim Protocol

With it being a new year, we thought we would remind you of our insurance claim protocol in the event you are required to cover the cost of any veterinary fees.

1. Advise your insurance company that you wish to make a claim and **request an insurance claim form**.
2. **Complete the relevant sections** of the form applicable to you and then **forward this on to us** for completion by the attending vet. **A small administration fee** is charged to cover time to complete the form, copying and archiving and for communications via phone/ email with the insurance company.
3. Once the form has been completed, we will **send this back to you for you to forward onto your insurance company** with any relevant invoices/ documents.
4. We advise that you **keep copies** of the documentation for your own records.
5. Please discuss with the practice prior to submitting a claim if you wish for **payments to be made directly to us by the insurance company** as this is likely to involve payment outside of the 14-day payment period. The insurance company may ask you to pay your **excess** directly to the practice.
6. We kindly ask you to **keep us up to date** with any progress in the insurance claim and **make regular contact** with your insurance company to ensure they have all required information.
7. Please contact the practice if you have any questions or if any additional information is requested by your insurance company.
8. We will endeavour to assist you by providing all of the required clinical information to enable you to make your claim, but should the insurance company refuse your claim for whatever reason, you will remain responsible for settling your account.

Tackling Equine Obesity!

Obesity is becoming increasingly more common in horses/ ponies and has serious health implications on our four-legged friends. Please go to our Facebook page and website www.kingsbountyequine.co.uk to find the latest article on Equine Obesity and how to get on top of it!