



# KINGS BOUNTY

EQUINE PRACTICE

## Winter 2019 Newsletter

### Introducing our new supplement - Bozmerix!

Bozmerix is a revolutionary supplement designed to support the horses' natural anti-oxidant systems and help with the maintenance of normal joint and muscular functions. Older horses or horses that are stiff may find it particularly useful when added daily to their feed. It can also be used during periods of rehabilitation and during periods of intense training and competition where pharmaceutical drugs cannot be used due to drug testing reasons.

Pharmaceutical drugs used to alleviate orthopaedic pain such as NSAIDs e.g. Bute carry side effects and are not 'kind to the gut'. Bozmerix contains 4 key ingredients including a concentrated form of Curcumin derived from Turmeric and Boswellia. It contains no sugars or fillers and no prohibited substances. It is kinder on the gut and can be used for horses on a low sugar diet and those competing.



Bozmerix comes in a box of 60 sachets and can be fed as a long term supportive supplement (one sachet a day) or the dose can be increased to two sachets a day during times of intense work/ post surgery etc.

For more information and pricing please see our website or call the practice.

#### **Kings Bounty Equine Practice**

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### Congratulations are in store!

We would like to congratulate Laura on her exciting pregnancy news! We are very much looking forward to meeting him or her next April!



### Winter Client Lecture Series 2020 – Save The Date!

We are excited to announce the date for our first client lecture evening of 2020!

Please keep the evening of Wednesday 15th January free to come along to an evening discussing all you need to know about your horses eyes and what to do in an emergency!

Talks will be held by veterinary ophthalmology specialist Robert Lowe MRCVS from Optivet Referrals.

Spaces will be limited, so please keep an eye on our website/facebook for information on how to reserve a space!

We look forward to seeing many of you there!



# Winter Checklist



## 1. How to avoid impaction colic

In this freezing cold weather horses tend to drink less. Please make sure your horses are drinking well as frozen icy water can lead to a reduced water input and impaction colic.

- Check troughs regularly, especially at feed times as this stimulates drinking. If there is any ice, break AND remove it.
- Check your horse is passing their normal amount of droppings and that the consistency is normal for them...not too hard or dry.
- If you're feeding hard feed then add extra water, preferably warm!
- Access to a non-molassed salt lick is also useful if your horse is not receiving complete feed, to help stimulate drinking



## 2. Lack of grass

Lack of grass means you will need to change progressively to a forage-based diet to reach your horse's daily needs.

Lack of grass may also mean that horses may try to eat acorns, sycamore seeds, or other poisonous plants which can lead to disease.



## 3. Rugging

It pays to buy a good quality rug and ensure a good fit, to keep your horse warm and dry during the winter. Be careful not to over-rug your horse. Waterproof and wind proof are the most important attributes of an equine rug to be effective, not the tog value. Unless your horse is thin skinned, lacking bodyweight, elderly or has been fully clipped it shouldn't need more than a lightweight rug, unless it's extremely cold.



## 4. Rain scald

Rain scald is caused by the same bacterium implicated in cases of mud fever (*Dermatophilus congolensis*).

Rain scald generally affects the top of the horse's body, in particular, the back & occurs following prolonged wetting of the skin. The resulting skin softening allows bacteria to enter resulting in a dermatitis characterised by hair loss & crusting.

Hair typically comes away in tufts being bound by a scab/crust.

Treatment is based on preventing further skin wetting & treating the lesions present. Surrounding hair may be clipped provided this does not result in additional trauma & the area should be thoroughly cleaned using a dilute, warm chlorhexidine solution. Topical antimicrobials/anti-inflammatories (creams) may be prescribed by your vet in addition to systemic antimicrobials (oral/injectable) if indicated.

## 5. Ice & snow compact in hooves

Ice and snow can compact in horses hooves (specifically horses with shoes on).

It is very important to pick the hooves out regularly during this cold weather.



## 6. Mites

Mites typically affect the legs of our feathered breeds. Mites can also affect other breeds and one of the more common areas affected in non-feathered breeds is the facial area.

Mite infections can occur throughout the year but as mite populations are highest in Winter, this is the time of year we see the most clinical cases.

Affected horses display signs of intense itchiness and those with leg mites frequently and repeatedly stamp their feet, bite/chew at their feathers or scratch on various objects. On closer examination, crusts & hair loss, with/without weeping lesions are generally present. Some horses markedly object to examination of the lesions so care should be exercised when attempting to examine.

Diagnosis is confirmed by examining a skin brushing under the microscope but frequently diagnosis is based on history & physical examination findings.

Treatment should ideally start with clipping; however, most owners do not want to proceed down this route in the first instance but in the case of treatment failure, clipping is highly recommended. The limbs should then be bathed in a solution to try soften/break up scabs/crusts prior to the application of a topical treatment. There are many topical treatments on the market indicating the lack of a gold standard treatment & the fact that different horses respond differently to different treatments (what may work in one patient may not work in another). An injectable treatment is also available. This is a frequently utilised treatment option but it's use is off-licence in horses. Following treatment, your horse's stable should be thoroughly cleaned out to prevent re-infection.

## 7. Hoof Abscess

Hoof abscesses, often called 'pus in the foot', occur when the structural integrity of the foot is compromised, allowing foreign material to get into the sensitive tissues beneath the hoof wall. This foreign material starts off an inflammatory reaction forming pus, which as it expands puts pressure on the sensitive soft tissues within the foot causing a great deal of pain.

The main treatment for any abscess is drainage. As soon as you suspect an abscess, call your vet. Early treatment to release the pus and drain the abscess will usually immediately reduce the pain and prevent damaging results. Luckily, the vast majority of equine hoof abscesses are quick and easy to treat, with most horses becoming comfortable within 24 hours, and back in work within a week, with no long-term complications.



## 8. Mud Fever

Mud fever is caused by bacteria called *Dermatophilus congolensis*. Signs to look out for include scabs on the lower limb (pastern and fetlock) that peel off to leave red sores underneath. In more severe cases, the legs can swell, the skin can split and there can be a lot of reddened oozing patches.

General treatments include removal from wet ground, removal of the scabs to clean the infected skin below with antibacterial shampoos. More specific treatments depend of the underlying cause but include steroid creams and tablets and specialised medicated ointments.

Keeping the skin clean and dry enables it to maintain it's natural defences and is the best method to prevent recurrence. Mud fever may recur if the conditions in which the horse is kept are not altered.

**If you are worried about any of these issues, please contact us on 01420 520164.**

## Banishing Bots

Bots can be irritating for your horse and the onset of winter is the best time for you to get these pesky parasites under control.

### What's are bots?

Bots are the insect larvae of the bot fly and are a common adult parasite found within the horse's stomach, yet they don't show up in a standard Faecal Worm Egg Count (FWEC). Brown, hairy and bee-like to look at, adult bot flies can be a buzzy annoyance for your horse in the summer months.

The female bot fly is a prolific egg layer. She can produce up to 1,000 distinctive yellow eggs on the hair on your horse's legs and shoulders or around the eyes, mouth and nose.

Your horse will inadvertently ingest the bot eggs while he's grooming himself or a companion. The bot larvae will mature in his mouth and develop in the stomach for up to a year before emerging in the dung. The larvae then burrow into the ground and develop into adults. Depending on the conditions, the adults emerge in 3 to 10 weeks and the cycle begins again.

**Spotting bots:** Bots are most easily identified by the presence of the eggs on your horse's legs but this can be an unreliable indicator because a horse with no signs of eggs may still have a bots in their stomach.

Infection can show as mouth irritation and occasionally it is possible to see the eruption of migrating larvae from the gums around the cheek teeth. Severe infestations can cause ulceration of the stomach lining, however the majority of horses will develop no obvious clinical symptoms.

The best way to control bots is to administer a suitable wormer in the winter, after the first frost when the adult flies have died and before the bots mature.

The correct worming protocol will not only help to safeguard the health of your horse but will also have an impact in reducing the bot fly population in your area - which could help to make you and your horse's life more comfortable next summer.

If you haven't yet treated your horse for encysted small redworm a practical and cost-effective solution may be to combine this with your bots treatment. It's important to speak to your vet to find the most suitable treatment for your horse.

## Kings Bounty Equine Practice Christmas & New Year Opening Hours



**Christmas Eve (24th December):**  
Normal opening hours

**Christmas Day (25th December):**  
Emergency cover only

**Boxing Day (26th December):**  
Emergency cover only

**27th December:**  
Normal opening hours

**28th December:**  
Emergency cover Only

**29th December:**  
Emergency cover only

**30th December:**  
Normal opening hours

**News Years Eve (31st December):**  
Normal opening hours

**News Years Day (1st January):**  
Emergency cover only

**2nd January onwards:**  
Normal opening hours