



KINGS BOUNTY

EQUINE PRACTICE

Winter 2020 Newsletter

Happy Christmas!

We would like to wish all of our clients a very Merry Christmas at the end of what has been a particularly challenging year and wish you all the best for 2021!

Let's hope that 2021 is a little more normal than 2020!

Thank you for all of your support this past year, helping us to maintain our patients' welfare whilst keeping clients, everyone's families and practice team safe!



Kings Bounty Christmas Advent Calendar

Thank you to everyone who sent in photos of themselves and their four legged friends! We enjoyed receiving them and loved some of the Christmas outfits that were on display!

A small KB prize is available for all those who entered and had their photos shown. We will aim to get those to you in a Covid-friendly way!



Follow us on Facebook to see more of our Kings Bounty Christmas Advent Calendar:

<https://www.facebook.com/kingsbountyequine>

Christmas and New Year Opening Hours

Thursday 24th December
Normal Opening Hours

Friday 25th - Monday 28th December
Emergency Cover Only

Tuesday 29th - Thursday 31st December
Normal Opening Hours

Friday 1st January - Sunday 3rd January
Emergency Cover Only

Monday 4th January
Normal Opening Hours resume

Don't forget we provide 24 hour 7 day emergency veterinary cover for horses. If you have an out of hours emergency (5pm-8am), please call our dedicated emergency line (01209 823227).

Petplan Veterinary Awards

2021 - They're Back!

The awards celebrate the outstanding achievements and work carried out by veterinary teams, across the country.

A BIG Congratulations go to Liz and Emma who have already been nominated for an award this year.



If you would like to nominate us, or a member of our team, please complete the nomination form: <https://www.petplan.co.uk/about-petplan/vets/awards/>

The closing date for all nominations is midnight on 18th January 2021.

Thank you!



Equine Biosecurity: What you need to know!

Equine biosecurity is a set of management protocols to help keep horses safe from disease.

Applying equine biosecurity measures as part of your daily routine will help to prevent an outbreak of any infectious disease.

How to prevent an infectious disease outbreak on a yard ?

The most efficacious method to prevent any disease is to perform a correct isolation of any new horse arriving on the yard, ideally over a period of three weeks. The temperature should be monitored twice daily. An increase in rectal temperature above 38.5°C reveals a systemic inflammation which should always be treated as a potential contagious infectious disease, unless proven otherwise.



Equine Influenza virus is one of the most contagious diseases that affects horses and can be devastating in susceptible populations.

We are often complacent about this disease because we expect horses to be vaccinated. However, the proportion of horses vaccinated in the UK falls below that which is required to prevent a major disease outbreak.

The virus can spread in the air over large distances and can also be transmitted via our clothing, hands and equipment.

Clinical signs of Equine Influenza are:

- A nasty cough and snotty nose
- High temperature
(103°F to 105°F / 39.5°C to 40.5°C)
- Loss of appetite
- Depressed
- Muscle soreness
- Reluctance to move



How to perform appropriate isolation?

Because infective material can be transported on clothing, hands and inanimate surfaces it is important to keep in mind that everything that is in contact with the isolated animal is potentially infectious. It is also important to remember that most disinfectants are inactivated by organic matter: clean and scrub if needed first, then apply the disinfectant.

What is needed to avoid clothing contamination:

- 1 Overalls
- 2 Foot dips
- 3 Gloves

Here are some tips to reduce the risk of contagious diseases:

1. Know your horse's normal vital signs and behaviour. This will help you to quickly spot if anything is wrong
2. Keep vaccinations up to date. Vaccinating is vital in protecting individual animals and preventing the spread of disease
3. Always wash your hands after handling an unknown horse before your own and ask others to wash their hands before touching your horse
4. Do not share or borrow equipment
5. Do not let your horse make physical contact with new arrivals or unknown horses when out and about
6. When out, do not use communal water sources
7. When moving to a new stable, make sure you thoroughly disinfect it before moving your horse in
8. All new horses should be isolated for ideally three weeks before introducing them to the other horses
9. Make sure any new horses at the yard are vaccinated against flu



How to prevent the spread of an infectious disease on a yard?

If a horse develops symptoms of a contagious disease, it is important to move them away from the others and use the isolation guidelines mentioned above. All the horses that have been in contact with the affected horse must be closely monitored for clinical signs and their rectal temperature taken twice daily. Blood testing and other samples can help monitor the spread of the disease, according to your vet's guidance.

In addition it must also be remembered that horses can carry contagious pathogens that can affect people, such as *Salmonella* spp., *Clostridium difficile*, Methicillin-Resistant *Staphylococcus Aureus*. Therefore, good hygiene measures are essential around every horse.

Equine Wound Management

Wounds are a common occurrence in equine practice. The majority are fortunately fairly straight forward to treat and manage, but some require more intensive veterinary care, especially those that communicate with joints/ tendon sheaths or involve bone or possibly a fracture!

Wound healing involves three stages:

Stage 1 is the **Inflammatory Phase**. During this phase the body activates the clotting cascade to stop associated bleeding. Special white blood cells swarm to the wound to remove any associated bacteria, dead tissue and debris that is present – think of them as scavengers cleaning up the wound bed! It is during this phase when you will see swelling and exudate (discharge) from the wound.

Stage 2 is the **Proliferative Phase** where cells and blood vessels migrate inwards to enable wound healing, supplying nutrients and oxygen needed for this process. Wound edges will start to epithelialize and the wound will begin to contract slowly. This process is characterized by the formation of granulation tissue (pink strawberry like material you may have seen) and epithelialization of the wound edges.

Stage 3 is the **Remodelling Phase** where the wound site is gradually strengthened.

When faced with a wound, it is best to contact your veterinary practice. Most will benefit from being seen. Initial wound management by your vet will often look something like this:

1. **Assess what structures are involved** – your horse will often need to be sedated to enable this to be done safely and thoroughly.
2. **Wound lavage** – the surrounding hairs are usually clipped and the wound is flushed to remove as much debris as possible that acts as a contaminant.
3. **Wound debridement** – Unhealthy, dead tissue is debrided, often with a scalpel, to remove this from the wound and aid with wound healing
4. **Wound closure** - Suturing/ stapling the wound is dependent on how much viable skin is available to suture close without putting the wound under excessive tension as this will lead to wound breakdown. Sometimes the decision will be made to either **partially close** the wound or let it **heal by second intention**. This means not suturing it closed but allowing the wound to heal on its own accord in combination with appropriate management. If the wound is large and contains a lot of ‘dead space’ = an area under the wound that will be prone to accumulating fluid due to inadequate closure, a drain may need to be inserted into the wound for a few days to enable drainage of accumulated fluid. This is removed after a few days.
5. **Wound dressings** - the wound will usually be dressed and the area bandaged to keep the wound bed moist to encourage healing and keep the area clean. Movement of wounds delays healing so box rest is often advised. The frequency of dressing changes will be dictated by each case.
6. **Re-checks** - Sutures are usually removed after 10-14 days and your vet will advise on the frequency of rechecks needed and whether any other special measures, drugs etc need to be administered.

The below images are of a horse that sustained a large V shape wound to the front of the cannon bone with no known cause. They nicely demonstrate the stages of wound healing:

