



# KINGS BOUNTY EQUINE PRACTICE

# SUMMER

JUNE 2024

## Client Evening Success

There was a fantastic turnout to our client evening on Monday 15th April with talks from our vet Amy and Dengie nutritionist Katie on Gastric Ulcers and Nutrition for Optimal Performance. We really enjoyed the evening and had excellent feedback from those who joined us. We hope to run further evenings later in the year and look forwards to seeing you there! Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.



## Upcoming Show sponsorship

We are excited to announce that Kings Bounty Equine Practice is sponsoring the Supreme Championship Class at the RAECTI Open Show at Thorney Island on June 23rd. This show has something for everyone with ridden and in-hand showing, working hunter, SSADL, CHAPS, TGC and BHSR Rising Star classes. Hopefully the sun will be shining and we will see some of you there!



## Weigh to Win

Once again Amy will be attending shows this summer on behalf of The Horse Trust to perform body condition scoring on horses and ponies as part of the Weigh to Win campaign. This campaign aims to increase awareness of healthy horse weights to improve the health and well being of the UK's equine population. First on the list is the RAECTI Open Show at Thorney Island on 23rd June.





# Maintaining Equine Hoof Health During Summer

## Tips for hard ground and beyond

As the summer sun beats down and the ground dries out, horse owners face challenges in maintaining the health of their horse's hooves.

The combination of hot, dry weather and hard ground can lead to a variety of hoof-related issues if not properly addressed. Understanding the importance of proactive hoof care during the summer months is essential for keeping horses sound and comfortable.

In this feature, we'll explore some valuable tips and practices for maintaining equine hoof health in the summer, particularly in the context of dealing with hard ground conditions.

### Regular hoof maintenance

Regular hoof care is essential year-round, but it becomes even more critical during the summer when horses are exposed to challenging environmental conditions.

Establishing a routine trimming schedule with a qualified farrier is important for keeping hooves properly balanced and trimmed. Trimming helps prevent uneven wear and reduces the risk of cracks and other hoof problems.

### Hydration and moisture management

One of the primary concerns during the summer months is dehydration, which can affect not only the horse's overall health but also the condition of their hooves. Ensure that your horse has access to clean, fresh water at all times to prevent dehydration, which can lead to dry, brittle hooves.

Additionally, consider using hoof moisturisers or conditioners to help retain moisture and prevent excessive drying out of the hoof wall and sole.

### Proper nutrition

A well-balanced diet plays a significant role in maintaining healthy hooves year-round, but it becomes especially important during the summer when horses may be grazing on dry, nutrient-deficient pasture.

Ensure that your horse's diet includes adequate levels of essential nutrients such as biotin which is vital for hoof health. Consult with your vet or farrier to determine if any supplements are necessary to support hoof growth and strength.





### **Protective measures for hard ground**

In regions where the ground becomes excessively hard during the summer months, additional measures may be necessary to protect horses' hooves from the impact of constant pounding. Consider using hoof boots or pads to provide cushioning and support, particularly during strenuous activities such as riding or turnout on unforgiving terrain. These protective measures can help minimise the risk of bruising, lameness, and other hoof injuries associated with hard ground conditions.

### **Monitoring for signs of stress or injury**

Regularly inspecting your horse's hooves for signs of stress, injury, or abnormalities is essential for early detection and prompt intervention. Look out for signs such as cracks, chips, excessive wear and sensitivity to pressure. If you notice any concerning changes in your horse's hooves, consult with your vet or farrier for guidance on appropriate treatment and management strategies.

### **Adjusting exercise and activity levels**

During periods of hot weather and challenging ground conditions, it may be necessary to adjust your horse's exercise and activity levels to reduce the risk of hoof-related issues. Avoid riding or working horses on excessively hard or rocky terrain.

By implementing proactive hoof care practices, including regular maintenance, hydration management, proper nutrition and protective measures for hard ground, horse owners can help mitigate the risk of hoof-related issues and ensure that their equine companions remain healthy, comfortable, and sound throughout the summer season and beyond. Remember, when in doubt, consult with your vet or farrier for personalised guidance and recommendations tailored to your horse's specific needs.

# Revolutionising Equine Healthcare

## Mobile diagnostic imaging equipment leads the way.

Traditionally, diagnosing equine ailments required transporting the horse to specialised facilities equipped with diagnostic imaging tools. However, the advent of mobile diagnostic imaging equipment has brought state-of-the-art technology directly to your yard.



Mobile diagnostic imaging equipment encompasses a range of advanced technologies, including portable ultrasound machines and digital radiography systems. These compact yet powerful devices are specifically designed to be transported easily to different locations, allowing our vets to conduct comprehensive diagnostic procedures on-site.

### Benefits of mobile diagnostic equipment:

#### Diagnosis at your home:

Mobile diagnostic imaging eliminates the need for transporting horses to specialised hospitals for diagnostics. This accessibility is particularly crucial for emergencies or for horses that are not easily transportable due to injuries or illnesses. With a mobile unit, our vets can reach the horse promptly, reducing stress and the risk of exacerbating their condition during transportation.

#### Quick diagnosis:

Timeliness is often critical in equine healthcare, especially in cases of injuries or illnesses that require immediate attention. Mobile imaging equipment allows our vets to perform diagnostic procedures on-site, facilitating rapid assessment and prompt initiation of treatment. Early diagnosis can significantly improve outcomes and minimise complications, ensuring the welfare of the horses.

#### Enhanced precision and accuracy:

State-of-the-art equipment offers high-resolution imaging capabilities, allowing for precise and accurate diagnosis of complex conditions.

Whether identifying subtle fractures, assessing soft tissue injuries, or detecting abnormalities within internal organs, our vets can rely on the clarity and detail provided by these technologies to make informed clinical decisions and develop tailored treatment plans.

#### Facilitated monitoring and follow-up:

In cases where ongoing monitoring is necessary, mobile diagnostic imaging equipment enables our vets to conduct follow-up examinations conveniently at the horse's location. This continuous oversight is invaluable for tracking the progress of healing, adjusting treatment protocols as needed and ensuring optimal recovery outcomes.

#### Collaborative partnerships:

Mobile diagnostic imaging services have revolutionised veterinary care, forging collaborative partnerships between vets and farriers. Working hand in hand, vets and farriers utilise tools like portable X-ray machines and ultrasound to assess injuries, monitor healing progress and ensure optimal hoof health. This collaborative approach not only enhances the efficiency of treatment but also elevates the standard of care for horses.