

Practice News

We would like to welcome another new member of staff to our reception team.

Shani Carey joined us in December as a replacement for Anthony Walker who has left us for pastures new; we wish him all the best for the future.

Client Evening

We will be hosting a **client evening** entitled 'The Art & Science of Equine Lameness' at Towcester Racecourse on Wednesday 18th March 2009 at 7pm. This will provide our clients with another chance to meet our surgical consultant Cedric Chan BVSc CertES(Orth) DipIECVS MRCVS and the rest of the veterinary team. Please contact the Equine clinic for further information and to book your place as numbers are limited.

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday:
8.30am – 6.00pm

Saturday:
9.00am – 12.00pm

At all other times during out of hours an equine vet will be available to answer incoming calls.

Artificial Insemination (AI) of mares in 2009 season

Towcester Veterinary Centre Equine Clinic is a British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) approved Artificial Insemination (AI) Centre. With a very successful 2008 season, 2009 will see the opening of our new reproductive suite at Plum Park. This is a completely separate indoor examination area with 2 sets of stocks and a foal enclosure enabling visiting mares and their foals to be examined more efficiently.



All mares embarking on an AI programme should have a preliminary examination of their reproduction tract carried out as early in the season as possible (beginning to mid April ideally). This helps us to recognise any problems that may hinder conception and establish if any pre-insemination treatments are required.

Careful management of the mare is essential if A.I is to be successful. Regular scanning is necessary to identify the likely time of ovulation. Mares are also intensively treated post insemination to help improve conception rates. We therefore generally hospitalise mares for a few days to facilitate this.

2009 Season Fees:

Fresh & Chilled Semen A.I package	£280.00+vat for 1 st cycle (£230.00+vat for 2 nd cycle)
Frozen Semen A.I package	£310.00+vat for 1 st cycle (£260.00+vat for 2 nd cycle)
Communal Grass livery	£8.00 per day
Individual Grass Livery for Mare & Foal	£12.00 per day
Individual Stabling	£12.00 per day



A.I package fees include:

- All ultrasound scans after the preliminary examination scan
- Hormone implant /injection for inducing ovulation
- Insemination of mare
- Routine post insemination treatment
- Pregnancy scans at 14-16, 20 and 30 days.

A.I package fees do not include:

- Uterine flushing for significant fluid and infection
- A clitoral (CEM) swab
- Stabling / Grass livery

Prior-to-Purchase Examinations (PPEs) or 'Vettings'

There is only one standard PPE in the UK: the 5-stage PPE. This has been gradually developed (and is still evolving) over several decades.

The aim of the examination is to provide you, the potential purchaser, with an informed, veterinary opinion as to the suitability of the horse or pony for the intended use.

Before requesting a PPE we would trust that you and your trainer have already identified the horse/pony as being suitable for you. This includes: type, colour, height and general demeanour in the stable and under saddle/in harness or in hand.

The 5 stages of the standard PPE are outlined below. Each of our experienced equine vets at TVC – Equine Clinic is likely to have their own routine for this examination, but each stage will be carried out in full.

Stage 1: Physical Examination



From nose to tail and from top to bottom.

The whole of the horse is examined by touch, palpation, visualisation and manipulation.

We also examine the heart and lungs (auscultation) at this stage.

Ophthalmoscopy (examination of the eyes) is also performed at this stage.

Stage 2: Walk and Trot in Hand



The horse is observed standing square outside; then walking away and toward the examining vet. The horse is then trotted away and back for around 25 yards. 'Flexion-tests' are usually performed on each limb at this stage.

Lunging in small circles (5m radius) on both reins on both hard and soft surfaces is often carried out, provided suitable facilities are available.

Neither flexion tests nor lunging form part of the 'standard' 5-stage PPE. However most equine vets will perform them.

Stage 3: A Period of Strenuous Exercise

This stage would usually be carried out under saddle. The aim is to exert the animal so that its heart and breathing rates are raised sufficiently to detect any abnormalities. This stage may be carried out on the lunge in the case of young animals or when no suitable rider is available.

Stage 4: A Period of Rest

The horse is returned to its stable and the heart rate is allowed to return to its resting rate. Usually the markings would be taken down at this stage

Stage 5: Second Trot Up

Essentially a repeat of stage 2. Flexion tests may or may not be carried out at this stage. A blood sample for storage and subsequent analysis for medication (should it prove necessary) is also taken at this stage.

A 2-stage vetting incorporates the first two stages of the standard examination. It is therefore not as comprehensive as the standard PPE.

If the potential purchaser is unable to be present then the examining vet will telephone the client to discuss any abnormalities found and a written report will be produced.

Warranties

Warranties are a matter between the vendor and the purchaser. The purchaser would be well advised to obtain a written warranty from the vendor stating that the horse is free from vices, allergies etc, as these are not covered by the PPE.

Finally, should you have any queries regarding a PPE then please feel free to contact the equine team at Towcester Veterinary Centre to discuss your individual requirements.

