

Towcester

VETERINARY CENTRE

Plum Park Farm, Watling Street, Paulerspury,
Towcester, Northants NN12 6LQ
☎ 01327 811007

EQUINE



SUMMER 2011

NEWS

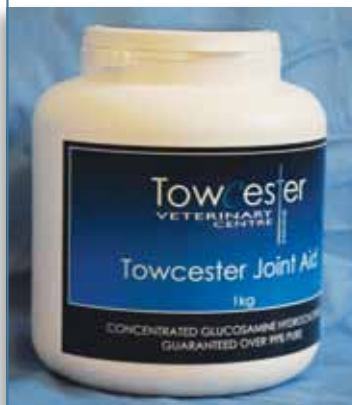
Practice News

Clare Booth has joined the equine team permanently and will be developing the Reproduction services.

Alice Sheldon has returned from maternity leave and is working Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Hayley Smith and Jayne Barker have joined the reception team part time.

Towcester Joint Aid



We are pleased to announce we are now able to supply our own very competitively priced top quality joint supplement. This product contains over 99% pure Glucosamine. Glucosamine is a protein produced naturally by the body which aids in the production and nutrition of healthy cartilage, joint fluid, tendon and ligaments.

Towcester Joint aid is available at £65.50 plus vat for a 1kg pot which is equivalent to a daily feeding cost of 65p based on an average 500 kg horse. For pharmaceutical grade Glucosamine this represents excellent value for money.

New simplified visit fee structure based on radial distance from the practice coming soon.

Breeding Services at Towcester Veterinary Centre

Towcester Veterinary Equine Clinic can proudly announce that Claire Booth, whom many will already know, has joined our permanent equine team. She gained the RCVS Certificate in Equine Practice in 2008 and has a particular interest in stud medicine. She has recently returned from a very busy stud season in Australia. We are therefore able to extend and develop the reproductive services we offer our clients.



The practice has been well recognised for its stud medicine services for some time. This side of the practice is growing rapidly. Two years ago we built a dedicated reproduction area at Plum Park with double mare stocks and an area to contain foals during mare scanning, tucked away from the general hustle and bustle of the practice. We have also now installed a 'dummy' mare enabling us to collect semen regularly, from our growing portfolio of stallions for fresh and chilled AI.

New services for 2011

For the first time in 2011 season we can offer our clients a semen freezing and embryo transfer service. Frozen semen has become increasingly popular with breeders as conception rates have increased dramatically in recent years. Stallion owners also enjoy the benefits of minimal disruption to the competitive year. Busy stallions are also able to store semen early in the breeding season allowing an increased number of mares to be covered.

Continued overleaf



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It is also a good backup plan for the future as your stallion's frozen semen can then outlive his natural breeding career.

Pre-freezing evaluation

When freezing your stallion's semen for the first time you must first have a sample evaluated to assess its viability as not all semen enjoys being frozen and we need to make sure it will be sufficiently fertile post freezing. If suitable then we collect 3-4 times per week which will provide us with 15-30 doses on average although there is huge individual variation.

Embryo transfer

Embryo transfer (ET) is also now available at the clinic. This is a great opportunity for you to be able to breed from your currently competing mares without interruption to their schedule. Successful sport horse mares are often only available for breeding following retirement in their late teens. Maiden mares of this age have many reproductive issues and their breeding career is short lived. ET allows these successful mares to have foals from a young age. Your mare is covered by a stallion or artificially inseminated, 7.5 days later the uterus is flushed and embryo retrieved. The embryo is then put into a similarly sized mare who has ovulated at a very similar time to your mare. The 'recipient mare' goes on to have the foal and your mare continues competing. This process can be repeated throughout the spring and summer to allow your mare to have multiple foals in a year. Mares which have infertility problems can also benefit from ET. Many mares who we can't get 'in foal' often develop a pregnancy but the pregnancy is lost between conception and day 14 when we scan for pregnancy. These mares will often have a viable embryo when flushed at day 7.5 but have a poor uterine environment which causes death of the embryo by the time we can see them by ultrasound at day 14. If flushed, then these infertile mares can successfully have foals via the ET technique. Having embryo transfer available may interest owners who otherwise have not thought about breeding as their mares are too talented and successful to be off work having foals and for those of you whose mares are just too precious for you to want them to engage in the associated risks of having a foal.



New muscle building supplement

We all know how hard it can be to keep condition on some recuperating and competing horses – especially those with an increased protein requirement. Too many concentrates and oils and they can get fat and fizzy.

That's why we're pleased to be able to introduce **Equitop® Myoplast Power Pearls** from Boehringer Ingelheim into the practice. Equitop Myoplast is packed with 18 key amino acids, including 8 essential amino acids, which your horse requires in its diet.

Scientifically designed to support lean muscle growth, Equitop Myoplast is great for optimising performance in horses in intensive training and competition, as well as bringing on young, breeding, or recuperating animals, and for older horses which lose condition easily.

We have had great results with this product in both patients and our own horses.

