

Practice News



The practice has recently expanded to 6 vets, **Tamarisk Leeming** being the latest to join our team. Tam is a keen rider and proud owner of Monster, her terrier, who is due to pup at any moment.

Ryan Kennedy joins our nursing team. Ryan is a horse owner and a keen show jumper.

**New Discounted
Zone scheme available
for our new equine
diagnostic unit**

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday:
8.30am – 6.00pm

Saturday:
9.00am – 12.00pm

All other hours an equine vet will be available to answer any incoming calls or equine emergencies.

**Don't forget we can
keep you up to date by
email so please ensure
we have your correct
email address.**

THRUSH

What is thrush?

Thrush is an unpleasant infection of the horse's frog which is predisposed by moist, damp, dirty ground or stable conditions.

What causes thrush?

It is usually caused by a bacterial (or less commonly, fungal) infection that enters the central and lateral sulcus of the frog. One species of bacterium (*Fusobacterium necrophorum*) is particularly aggressive, invading and destroying the frog, sometimes exposing the deeper sensitive tissues. Long heel conformation encourages the development of deep narrow frog sulci which are more prone to the development of thrush, if environmental conditions are right.



Deep infected cleft in frog associated with 'thrush'
Picture courtesy of S J Curtis, Newmarket

How is thrush diagnosed?

Thrush produces a foul smelling black discharge in the affected sulcus of the frog. There is pain on applying pressure to the area. The hind feet are more often affected than the front feet and, occasionally, infection may result in a general swelling of the distal (lower) limb.

How is thrush treated?

The horse should be moved to a dry clean environment. The foot should be thoroughly cleaned out, removing necrotic debris from within the affected frog sulcus, and then pared out down to healthy tissue, allowing air to reach any remaining damaged tissues. The frog and its sulcus should be scrubbed daily with dilute iodine solution or an antibacterial Tetracycline spray should be used. This is available at the practice.

Tetanus antitoxin must be given if the horse is not fully vaccinated up-to-date or if vaccination status cannot be confirmed.

Thereafter the horse should be kept in clean, dry stable conditions and the frog should be cleaned and treated regularly until the infection is controlled and the tissues heal.

How can thrush be prevented?

Prevention is better than cure and thrush can be avoided by good stable management and regular foot care and inspection. Stable your horse in clean dry conditions and have your horses' feet regularly trimmed and shod to avoid the development of long heel conformation and to keep the frog healthy.

Caution

With early treatment and good stable and environmental management, the prognosis for complete recovery for cases of thrush is good. Treatment will usually be required for 7-14 days. The prognosis for complete resolution is good unless the infection has been allowed to become chronic and/or there is extensive involvement of deeper tissues.

Make sure that your horses are always fully vaccinated against tetanus, an invariably fatal infection which can gain access through a damaged frog.



Towcester Joint Aid

Towcester Joint Aid is available at £65.50 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.

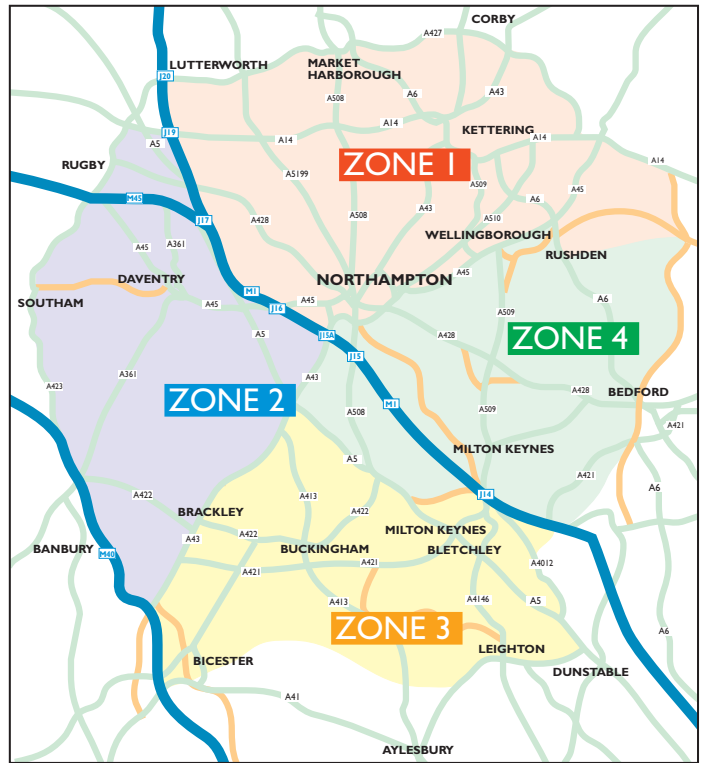
NEW VISIT SCHEME

In addition to our very popular **free zone visit scheme** for routine work, we have now launched an additional subsidised visit scheme for our new **mobile diagnostic unit**, available for further investigations or involved procedures. The visit fee for this service will be charged at a flat rate of £25.00 including VAT, no matter where your horse is stabled. From now on a vet will be in your area twice a week. We hope that these two visit schemes will revolutionise the way veterinary diagnostics and treatment is delivered locally.

Our aim is to combine extremely high standards of both clinical care and service with value for money and convenience.

The days allocated to each zone are as follows:-

- Zone 1** Free Tuesday, Mobile unit Thursday
- Zone 2** Free Wednesday, Mobile unit Friday
- Zone 3** Free Thursday, Mobile unit Monday
- Zone 4** Free Friday, Mobile unit Tuesday



EQUINE Mobile Diagnostic unit

NEW

- Digital Diagnostic equipment
- Reduced travelling for horse and owner
- Instant images
- Discounted ZONE scheme



TOWCESTER EQUINE
MOBILE DIAGNOSTICS