

Dukes Veterinary Practice

Dykehead Farm

Aboyne

Aberdeenshire

AB34 5JH

Practice update

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2008. There's lots going on in the next couple of months. We have 2 evening meetings for farmers and our equine clients and have just launched our website. We are also introducing evening visits specially aimed at those of you that work during the day. Read on for further details.

During the quieter winter months all the vets have been attending lots of CPD courses. Subjects covered included coccidiosis, stud medicine, dealing with equine emergencies, respiratory disease and lameness.

Sarah has settled in well and is becoming an established member of the practice veterinary team. Jim is back from a couple of weeks off to find that the practice ran perfectly well without him. No surprise but evidence of how the practice is evolving. We are still looking at new ways to develop and will keep you updated. Mark is now off to South Africa for his annual fix of sunshine but will be back with us at the beginning of March. Looking at the rain turning to sleet outside he may have the right idea, and he'll have to check his suitcase to make sure there are no stowaways!

Farmer's meeting

Anyone buying a bull now will see the display boards over some of the pens indicating that the bull or herd has been accredited free of certain diseases. Should this affect your purchasing decision and what criteria are most important? For those of you still considering joining the scheme what affect does vaccination have on your status and what should you look at?


Sheila Rusbridge from SAC will talk on their PCHS accreditation scheme and how it has developed and we hope to have someone speaking on leptospirosis and IBR vaccination strategies. There should be something in the meeting for all cattle farmers and it will be followed by supper. The meeting starts at 7.00pm on Thursday 6th March at the Deeside Activity Park. To book your **free** place phone Linda at the office.

Three perspectives on equine foot balance

We are holding a meeting at the Deeside Activity Park for equine clients at 7.00pm on Thursday 10th April looking at the perspective of vets, farriers and "barefoot trimmers" on this important subject. Sarah Wyatt will be giving the practice's views, Jason Cunningham, AWCF, a former lecturer at Oatridge College and now based in Tomintoul will give the farriers perspective and Annie Stonebridge from Logie Coldstone will speak about barefoot trimming.

It is hoped that this will be a positive discussion from all sides and should be informative for anyone who rides or is involved with horses. To book a place phone Linda at the office.

Equine and Farm Animal Practice

 013398 87010

Fax 013398 85554

Email jim@dukesvets.com; linda@dukesvets.com

Dukes Veterinary Practice Limited

Registered in Scotland No. 230567

Director Jim Dukes BVM&S, MRCVS

Evening visits

We recognise that many of our farm and equine clients have other jobs too. To try and help you book a better time for visits we are offering evening visit appointments on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays until 7.00pm. The charges will be the same as day time visits so long as the visit is booked before 4.30pm on the day. Any calls after this time will go to the duty vet and will incur evening visit charges.

This service will be available from Monday 3rd March for a two month trial period. Please make use of it or we will not continue the service.

From our own correspondent

Jim has started writing a fortnightly column in the horse section of our local paper, the Deeside and Donside Piper. A wide variety of topics should be covered over the year but if you don't get the Piper we will be making all the articles available via the website. One interesting spin off from this is introducing the practice to people who don't keep animals; Jim was recently stopped at the supermarket checkout to ask if we really fed "readybrek" to horses!

www.dukesvets.com

Linda has been working hard over the winter to bring our website to life and has done a fantastic job. We will be developing it over the next couple of months so it will become more comprehensive but you can visit it now to check it out. The good thing about developing it in house is that we can change or add features easily. If there is anything you want included, let us know in the contact us section.

Although most people now have access to the internet for you technophobes out there, we will still be sending out newsletters every few months. However if you are a technophile please let us have your email address so we can send newsletters electronically. It's may save some trees and a considerable amount of postage!

Herd Benchmarking and Health Plans

The land management contracts were being touted as the new way forward for Scottish agriculture only two years ago. However, already we will have to refer to it as the old land management contract scheme. It looks like this year farmers may have to reapply for most of it again once the new scheme is launched, but since Europe hasn't agreed it yet this could still change. One thing fairly certain is that it will be launched at the last minute and there won't be much time to consider your options. It appears that there will be something similar carrying forward and, if it does, it may be a good time for farmers thinking about herd health plans to apply.

To get the best out of a health plan you need to constantly review it and keep up with the action points. The health plan only works if you use it and now may be a good time to look at what you have got and how it can be used in a beneficial way for your business in the future.

The LMC benchmarking Database is now up and running. Due to the data protection act we are not given details of which farms have applied so, if you are in this option, you must contact us to input the data!

Equine Wormers on special offer

We still have a few wormers left on special offer (10 – 15% off the old Millers prices). Please contact Linda to place an order.