

Dukes Vet Practice

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Its all go at the practice

The warm weather has been fantastic this Spring and like us I'm sure many of you have been making the most of it. The practice has been very busy so there's not been much time to think about it but it's generally made our work much more pleasant.

However it's not been completely plain sailing thanks in part to a fair number of complex cases, most of which we are making good progress with, and secondly because a mare that arrived from Germany on 31st March to be artificially inseminated here before going to her new owners showed signs of Strangles 13 days after arrival.



Strangles case at the practice in April

We have a strict policy that mares are blood tested on arrival for evidence of exposure to strangles. This mare was negative when tested on arrival but must have somehow picked up the infection just before or in transit from Germany.

We were fairly lucky that at that time we only had a few visiting mares here so it was relatively easy to limit the spread of infection. However for the few horses that could have been in contact it wasn't much fun and we thank their owners for their great understanding and support whilst we dealt with the outbreak. The affected mare was put into isolation as soon as she showed clinical signs even though we hoped it was not strangles. However the lab tests confirmed infection on 16th April. As well as stopping all movement of horses on or off the premises we informed anyone whose horses could have been in contact and also stopped all movements of horses around the farm (Cont over)

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Embryo transfer news

Mare expecting three foals next March!



Salima is an Oldenburg mare originally imported from Germany. She has great bloodlines and is a lovely horse. She came to us in mid March for embryo transfer. Salima was inseminated on two oestrus cycles using a different stallion each time from Paul Schokemohle's stud in Germany. Chilled semen was sent to us by DHL and about 8 days after each insemination a non surgical embryo transfer was performed.

We recovered one embryo from the first flush and two from the second, all three being put into mares from our recipient herd at Dykehead.

Luckily all three transfers were successful and all three recipients are now more than 6 weeks pregnant. Salima is back with her owner and we wish them success in competition this summer. Meanwhile someone is going to be busy with three foals due next March!

New Flu Vaccine

We have decided after many years to change our flu vaccine to Proteqflu, incorporating the latest American flu strains which have been the cause of all recent UK outbreaks. Proteqflu has a very low incidence of reported adverse reactions. The list price is slightly more than our previous vaccine but we have negotiated a deal to keep the price to you the same as before.

Dukes Veterinary Practice Limited
Registered in Scotland No. 230567
Director Jim Dukes BVM&S, MRCVS

Vaccine amnesty special offer

As part of our switch to a new vaccine we are offering a one off vaccine amnesty for horses whose vaccinations have lapsed and need to restart their vaccinations.

To take advantage of the offer you need to book a first vaccination visit between the 16th June and 15th July. You will have to pay the full price for the first vaccination at the time of booking and then the second vaccination excluding visit charge will be **FREE**. Full information is on our website or contact the office.

(Strangles Cont) and effectively created four distinctly separate groups of horses. This left us with one horse in direct contact and seven other possible indirect contacts plus the remaining three groups of horses. We set up disinfection points all round the farm and restricted the personnel in contact with the horses. We also made sure that anyone who had had contact always showered and changed before leaving the farm. The full story of the outbreak is on our website. I'm sure that our prompt action and the movement restrictions within the premises coupled with strict biosecurity allowed us to control the disease and only one other horse showed definite exposure and two horses possible exposure. All these horses were tested by taking samples for bacteriology from their guttural pouches by endoscopy. The final negative results came in on 16th May. We have since mixed and introduced new horses with no signs of disease and are as confident as it is possible to be that we are clear of Strangles now.

Clearly prevention is better than cure but with lots of horses coming and going any yard is vulnerable. Our final experience from this outbreak is that so long as steps are taken immediately if Strangles is suspected, it is possible if you're lucky to limit the spread of infection and control an outbreak quickly.

Twice monthly invoicing

We have just changed our system to allow twice monthly invoicing. We will still be running our popular prompt payment system but instead of invoicing only at the end of the month we will also invoice all work done up to the 15th of the Month with a prompt payment bonus on these invoices awarded if these invoices are paid by the end of the month. This will improve our cashflow throughout the month but if any of our regular account customers would prefer only one invoice a month please contact the office.

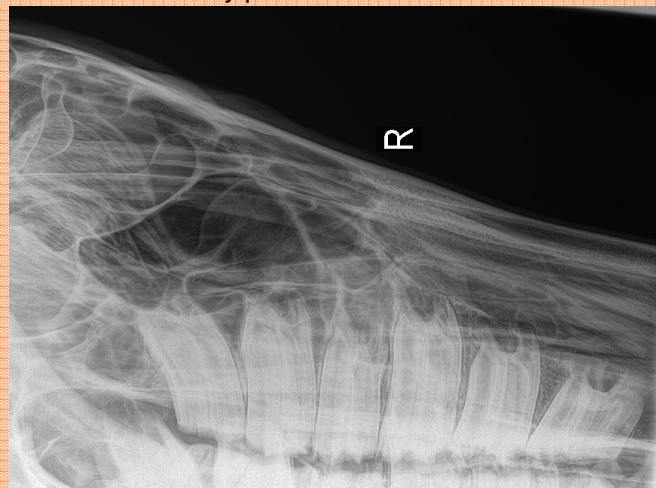
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A cracking image! Practice orders NEW DR digital X-ray system

After looking at digital X-ray for a while we have just ordered a new state of the art DR system. DR stands for direct radiography meaning that an image is created almost instantaneously after taking the picture rather than putting it through a machine to process the image. This means that the DR system can be taken anywhere and superb quality diagnostic images are available within 4 seconds. The picture quality is outstanding and far superior to most CR digital X-ray systems. This will be great, particularly for those cases where the horse is injured and cannot travel. As far as we are aware this will be the only DR system in a North of Scotland veterinary practice.



For lameness workups and other investigations there will be times when it is more efficient to look at the horse at Dykehead but we will be able to offer a much more flexible service in future.

The system is very expensive and we will have to increase x-ray fees by 15%. We believe this is a small price to pay for the massive increase in convenience and quality.

High worm burdens this Spring

We have detected a number of horses with high worm egg counts this spring. The benefit of doing a worm egg count is that you can detect this before it becomes a problem. If you get some high counts you can look at your current worm control program and identify areas that could be improved. More information is available on our website.

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