

## Equine Newsletter

**August 2009**

What a difference a month makes! I was planning to write a newsletter at the end of June about how to help your horses cope with the unusually warm weather. However July brought me back to reality with a jolt and sadly we don't have to worry this month about problems with overheating!

Despite the doom and gloom in the global economy the practice has been busy lately with a huge variety of work and some interesting cases. We thank all our customers for your continued support. We have been particularly pleased to have an increase in the number of clients joining the practice so welcome to all of you.

### **Staff news**

David Craig our new vet has settled in well and he will already be familiar to some of you. David is very hard working and enthusiastic and has been a great asset to the practice this spring. Our other new member of the team, Lydia, our nurse, stud groom and part time receptionist, has also been working exceptionally hard keeping the yard running smoothly and caring for our visiting mares for stud and inpatients. Good luck to Lydia, who is getting married to James in September. It seems wedding bells are in the air this year so congratulations also to our South African vet Mark who is getting married in September to Susan, we wish them all the best of luck.

Linda continues to manage the reception and office with her usual cheerful calm efficiency, and all the rest of the practice are really grateful for the work she does, thank you.

### **Best wishes to Mike Barker**

Many of you will be aware that Mike Barker has not made his usual trip from Tasmania to visit us and work with your horses this summer. Mike is a truly inspirational horseman and has helped many of us and our horses in the past. Sadly he is very ill with cancer but I think one of the things keeping him going is the hope that he can come over again to visit all of us in the future. We have really missed Mike and Sarah being here this year. We send our best wishes and are thinking about them often.

### **Nutritionist visit**

Lorna Jowett from Bailey's horse feeds is visiting us during the week beginning 24<sup>th</sup> August. If you want some free nutritional advice from an expert in the field then make good use of Lorna. She is happy to visit your yard, look at your horses and help prepare individual feeding guides. Lorna can give advice for a wide range of situations including over thin or

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fat horses, serious competition horses, feeding of mares and youngstock. Contact the office beforehand and we will get Lorna to contact you.

## Horse Passports

For any of you who are not already aware a new horse passport order came into force across the UK on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009. This replaces the previous horse passport order. All horses must now have passports. Any horse that doesn't currently have a passport must be microchipped by a vet before the passport can be applied for. There is now no need to complete a silhouette to comply with the legislation but many breed societies still need an ID card to be filled in.

For a copy of the legislation visit

[http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2009/pdf/ssi\\_20090231\\_en.pdf](http://www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/scotland/ssi2009/pdf/ssi_20090231_en.pdf)

The legislation also strengthens the requirement for us to examine passports before treating an animal. Please make sure that your horse's passport is available every time we are asked to see a horse. Failure to show us the passport will mean that we cannot administer certain drugs, even in emergency situations.

This will effectively mean that we cannot dispense any medicines or give a prescription for any horse without seeing the horse and the passport first!

You should apply for a passport for all foals before they reach six months of age. If a passport is not applied for before six months of age then the horse still needs a passport but any application for a horse older than 6 months will now automatically exclude that animal from the food chain.

The passport should remain on the premises where the horse is kept and no horses may be travelled without a passport except foals under 6 months of age travelling with their dams. It is now a legal requirement to update the ownership of the horse with the relevant passport issuing organisation (PIO) to inform them of any change of ownership within 30 days of the change, and also to return the passport to the PIO within 30 days of the death of any horse.

Although we have always done it anyway, it is now also a legal requirement to record all vaccinations on the passport.

Sorry if this is all a bit boring but it is the law and like it or not, we will have to comply with it. Please remember to have your passports available whenever we are required to treat your horse.

## Email addresses

**Please, please, please** can we have your email addresses if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically. It will reduce our admin and allow us to keep you all updated more easily. Don't forget to visit our website [www.dukesvets.com](http://www.dukesvets.com) for further information and updates from the practice.