

Dukes Veterinary Practice

Dykehead Farm

Aboyne

Aberdeenshire

AB34 5JH

Newsletter November 2006

After a fantastic summer, a dusting of snow on the cairngorm peaks outside our window heralds the start of winter. We have definitely seen some diseases for the first time this year possibly as a result of the warmer weather. We had reports of bot flies on some horses which we have never seen before in this area, laminitis has been a particular problem because of the plentiful grass supply and conversely we had some queries about animals eating unusual plants because the grass had burnt off! However, generally most horses and livestock seem to have done well.

Horse health checks

We mentioned in our last newsletter that we would be offering a horse health check this winter. This is a new two part scheme. Firstly your horse would have a comprehensive examination including heart, eyes, lungs and a walk and trot up in hand (similar to the first two stages of a pre-purchase examination). Secondly in the light of the examination we would review any findings, look at any changes in management that may be required and at the same time review your preventative healthcare program. If it was considered appropriate a blood sample may be taken during the examination to check any unusual findings. The cost of the health check excluding any lab or visit fees is £60 plus VAT after your prompt payment bonus.

Farrier at Dykehead

We have been using Murray McIntosh, DWCF, to shoe some of our cases at Dykehead that needed surgical shoeing. It has been very useful having the ability to take radiographs, shoe the horse and re-radiograph at the same time to see if we have achieved our aims.

We are very aware that it is still sometimes difficult to get a farrier in Deeside. If you need a farrier and are prepared to bring your horse to Dykehead then we will organise a regular slot with Murray. The first booking is on Tuesday 22nd November. If you would like to use this service please contact Linda at the office and she will give you a time if space is available. This is a trial and numbers are limited but if successful we will continue with this service.

Herd Health plans

This is a final reminder to any farmers who have chosen the health plan options in their land management contracts that they must be started in the next week or so, or we will not be able to complete them in time for the deadline of the end of this month.


Practice talks

We are planning to hold an equine and a farm meeting early next year. The topic for the equine meeting is "Equine Embryo transfer, and developmental problems in the young and growing horse". The farmer meeting will have a similar format to last year and if anyone has a particular topic they would like discussed please let us know.

We have included a questionnaire with this newsletter and you have time we would appreciate your comments and will use them to try and improve the practice.

If you would like to receive our newsletters by e-mail, please send an e-mail to linda@dukesvets.com or telephone 013398 87010

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