



Newsletter
Autumn 2008

Equine EXPRESS

Shotter & Byers Equine Veterinary Services

Welcome to our New Vets

Warren Mitchell BSc BVSc MACVSc MRCVS "Mitch" grew up on a sheep and beef farm in New Zealand. Mitch graduated from Massey University with a Science and Veterinary Degree in 1994. His first veterinary job was doing mixed practice in Gore and after 2 ½ years it was time to travel. He then worked in the UK for 1 ½ years in mixed practices followed by a 6 month cycle touring trip of South America.

It was then time to return to New Zealand for the birth of his first child. Mitch then spent the next 8 years working in New Zealand of which the last 6 years were in an Equine Hospital in Matamata. In 2005, he passed his Australian College Membership Exams in Equine Medicine.

Mitch and his wife and two children moved back to the UK in July 2008. Mitch's wife Debs is an eventer and has brought her two event horses with her. He thought he had a lot of baggage the first time he came to the UK, we think he has out done himself this time! In his spare time, he enjoys playing the guitar and keeping fit by cycling and running. We are happy to have Mitch join our team.



In This Issue:

page 1

Introductions

page 2

Autumn Health Check
Website Surveys

page 3

Managing Mud Fever
Horse Transport
Campaign

page 4

Clipping Styles
Katie Price Clothing

Nicole Larkin BVSc MVS MACVS MRCVS Nicky grew up in Auckland, New Zealand. After graduating from Massey University, she worked in Cranbourne Equine Hospital in Melbourne Australia.

In 1993, she was offered a position with the University of Melbourne in the Veterinary Clinical Centre. While there, she had a teaching and clinical role in Equine Medicine and Surgery where she headed up the scintigraphy unit and supervised the installation of the gamma camera. During this time, Nicole completed her Masters in Veterinary Science with her thesis being on bone response to exercise with research into shin soreness in two year old thoroughbreds. She presented this thesis at conferences in Australia, Germany, France and New Zealand.

Following this, she worked for the Australian Equestrian Federation and Australian Olympic Committee as the vet for the Olympic Team. After the Olympics, Nicole returned home and started North Harbour Equine Hospital in New Zealand where she employed 10 staff and had over 2000 clients. In 2006, she sat membership exams in Equine Medicine for the Australian College of Veterinary Surgeons, receiving the Reginald Pascoe Medal of Excellence.

When Nicole is not working, she enjoys running and travelling. She use to breed race horses in the past and is hoping to get back into doing that at some time. Nicole joined us in July 2008, and we welcome her to the team at Shotter & Byers.



AUTUMN HEALTH

How important is early detection?



Regular health checks are a proactive way of detecting and treating health problems before they

become serious. This is an ideal opportunity to discuss any aspect of your horse's health and well-being or to discuss any concerns. The vet may suggest further investigation or treatment if necessary.

Why Do a Worm Egg Count?



Most horse owners worm their horse's on a regular basis. However, if the worm burden reaches a significant level, symptoms such as weight loss, diarrhoea, and fatigue may develop. It is very

important to have an effective worm control strategy, as worms can cause severe damage to the intestines.

Special Offer: Examination + worm egg count + lab fee = £42.00
(norm. value = £60.00)

Exam includes: assess body condition, check eyes, skin & coat, listen to heart & lungs, and examine the teeth

Sample: a fresh sample of dung should be given to the vet, this sample will be sent to the lab for analysis.

zone visit fees are charged as usual but if you book 3 or more horses the visit fee is free of charge

Any additional investigation and treatment are charged extra

Worm you way to £500



**University of
Reading**

Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics Research Unit

Horse owners are invited to take part in a worming study with the potential to win **£500**. This is an online survey undertaken by the Epidemiological and Economics Research Unit at the University of Reading to investigate horse's resistance to worming agents. This study will hopefully enable better understanding of the problem of equine resistance. It will also be able to provide improved information for horse owners on the most effective approach in particular cases. If you are interested visit the website www.survey.bris.ac.uk/reading/equips to complete the survey.

Welfare standards for Britain's Liveries



Representatives from the British Equine Veterinary Association, World Horse Welfare, The British Horse Society, RSPCA, Association of British Riding Schools, South Essex Insurance Brokers and local government bodies have set up a group to carry out research on welfare standards used in our livery yards. The group feels they can gather vital information from the public about their local livery yards. The type of information they are looking for are the numbers of yards operating and the standard of accommodation and services offered for the client and their horse.

The information collected will be treated confidentially and the results will be reviewed later in 2008. This online survey is aimed at horse owners, grooms, yard owners and equine professionals. To participate: www.liveryyardsurvey.co.uk

Managing Mud Fever -- Prevention is always better than a cure

It is that time again, (or has it ever been dry this year) that the wet weather causes mud fever.

Horses that stand around in muddy



areas tend to be prone to this skin condition. It is caused by a bacteria called "dermatophilus congolensis". The bacteria penetrates the skin when it has been softened by the wet and/or mud.

All horses can be vulnerable to this condition, but horses with long hair on their lower legs tend to be more prone to it. Areas affected are the pastern, heels and fetlock. This is also called rainscaud when seen on the body, head and neck areas.

Signs of the condition can vary but generally there is an appearance of inflammation, weeping cracks, and swelling of the skin. The hair then falls out in patches and crusty, hard scabs form.

Check your horse's leg regularly for the first signs of cracks and



treat immediately with mud fever lotion. Mud fever can be a painful condition and in severe cases can cause lameness.

Management

1. When scabs turn black they are ready to be removed be careful not to remove too soon
2. Soak and massage the affected area with an antiseptic shampoo created for horses ie. Malaseb or diluted hibiscrub
3. Do not pick off scabs! Gently rub and massage them and they will lift off.
4. Dispose of the scabs carefully - the bacteria can live for some time
5. Dry the area thoroughly by blotting not rubbing
6. Apply Mud Fever Lotion and overnight horse in a dry clean stable



Shotter & Byers Mud Fever Solution
1 Litre for £21.00 + vat
(Ask your vet for details)



Horse Transport Campaign

A motion has been tabled in the Scottish Parliament in support of World Horse Welfare's Make a Noise campaign, which calls for the tightening of EU regulations to stop the "inhumane" long-distance transportation of horses in Europe for slaughter.

John Scott, the Scottish Conservative spokesman on rural affairs, tabled the motion, which advocates strict enforcement of existing welfare regulations and the introduction of more stringent controls. World Horse Welfare claims the current rules are commonly breached and that horses are "crammed into lorries for journeys of more than 1,500 miles in intolerable temperatures".

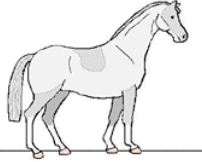
Mr. Scott said: "Despite a recent update to the European welfare regulation – which sets out rules for long-distance transportation, including when a horse is fit to be transported and the enforcement of rules on feeding, watering and resting of horses – there is plenty of evidence that they are routinely flouted, causing suffering to horses that is inhumane and utterly deplorable".

He explained that more than 100,000 horses a year were transported live across Europe for slaughter for human consumption, and added: "As a start, we must demand scrupulous enforcement of the existing laws. However, much more needs to be done to help ensure that proper welfare standards are both put in place and properly enforced, an end to the practice of long-distance transportation of horses to slaughter in Europe.

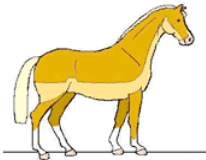
CLIPPING STYLES

The main reasons for clipping horses are to avoid excess sweating and overheating which leads to loss of condition, quicker drying, easier cleaning and grooming. The longer and coarser winter coat usually starts to grow in Autumn.

Hunter Clip/Blanket Clip The horse is clipped everywhere except the legs and a blanket-shaped area on the back where the hair is left long to protect the kidneys and rump areas. This clip is best for horses that are exercised frequently, shown on weekends and not turned out.

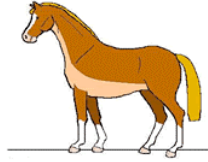


Trace Clip The hair is removed from the underside of the neck and belly leaving enough hair for warmth but removing hair in the areas most prone to sweating.

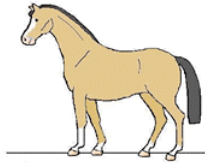


This is best for horses turned out during the day and stabled at night.

Belly Clip Hair is removed from under the belly and chest only leaving longer hair over the rest of the body for warmth. This is used for horses that are lightly exercised and often turned out.



Full Clip All the hair is removed from the horse. This is usually only for show and competition horses competing in the Autumn and Winter months. As they have no long body hair to keep them warm, they must be rugged to avoid the chills.



If your horse is unhappy about being clipped you may have to use restraints such as bridles, firm handling, twitches, etc. In some

cases, it is preferred to have the vet sedate your horse to allow the clipping to be carried out safely and efficiently with no stress for the horse or owner. Oral ACP provides a light sedation or intravenous sedation provides a heavier and more predictable sedation. Ask your vet for details.

Clipping Tips

- ❖ Start with a washed, clean horse that is fully dried
- ❖ Clip against the natural lay of the hair in long strokes
- ❖ Always keep the blades at a slight angle so they cut evenly
- ❖ Overlap each stroke with the next keeping a firm, even pressure
- ❖ Always use sharp blades keeping the blades clean through clipping

www.kpequestrian.com

As **Katie Price** is a client of Shotton & Byers, we would like to let you know about her range of equestrian clothing. It includes clothing for the rider but also rugs, bandages and accessories for the horse. This collection very much has the ladies in mind as all items come either in pink or blue. Katie is an accomplished horsewoman and has embarked on the sport of dressage. She was recently performing at the Horse of the Year Show.

For the latest exciting range designed by Katie herself, please visit the website www.kpequestrian.com



Or you can call Derby House to order a free catalogue on **0800 0480114**



18 Smithbrook Kilns, Smithbrook, Cranleigh, Surrey, GU6 8JJ Office 01483 274905 Fax 01483 27638

