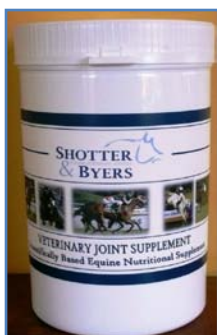


Equine EXPRESS

Shotter & Byers Equine Veterinary Services

Newsletter
Autumn 2009

Shotter & Byers Joint Supplement



Shotter & Byers Veterinary Joint Supplement is a veterinary strength mobility feed supplement which combines the nutritional benefits of Glucosamine HCl, Chondroitin Sulphate and Bioavailable Sulphur. Fed as recommended it will enhance the level of glycosaminoglycans (GAG's) in the joint. These are the building blocks of the cartilage matrix. High levels of Chondroitin Sulphate in the formula act as a "water magnet" in the joint allowing it to withstand constant compression and concussion.

S&B Joint Supplement 1000g/tub
£59.99/tub = 66 scoops/tub
1 scoop per day = £0.91/day

Performance horses are pre-disposed to increased wear and tear on their joints. This can lead to an imbalance between the production and breakdown of cartilage tissue. When the rate of breakdown exceeds the rate of production, cartilage tissue will begin to break-up causing erosion of the cartilage matrix. This can lead to serious problems, such as; osteoarthritis, degenerative joint disease and articular lesions in the cartilage tissue. Shotter & Byers Veterinary Joint Supplement provides the components necessary for the nutritional maintenance of a healthy cartilage matrix.

Francisco "Fran" Tirado BVSc, MRCVS

Fran is joining our team of vets as of October 1st 2009. He is moving over from Ireland with his wife and children. He is originally from Spain where he graduated vet school in 2002. He moved to Ireland and completed an Internship at Troytown Equine Hospital. Fran then returned to Spain where he had his own mobile Equine Clinic. As a family, they have decided to relocate to England and we are very happy to have him on board.

We are saying goodbye to **Davide Ranon** after 5 years with us. He is returning to Estepona, Spain to join his wife and daughter. Davide will be working in a vet practice with 3 other vets specialising in Sport Medicine. He will be greatly missed by all at Shotter & Byers as well as his many devoted clients.

MICROCHIPPING

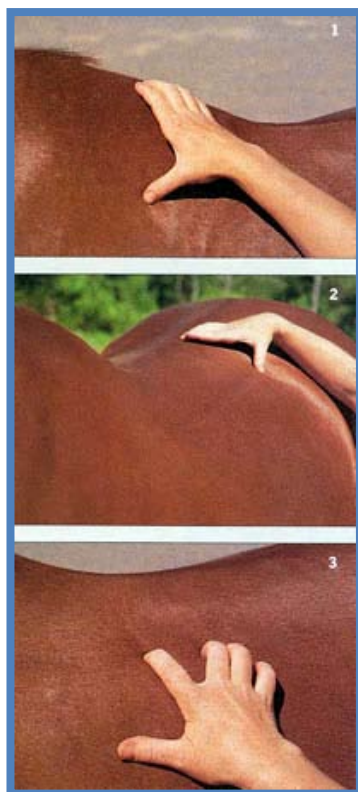
New rules have been passed making it compulsory to microchip all foals born after July 1st 2009 and all horses requiring a passport.



As a consequence, until further notice, Shotter & Byers will be extending their microchip special of **£25.00/horse (incl. VAT)**. If we microchip 4 or more horses at one time, there is no visit fee charge.

UNDERSTANDING BACK PAIN

There are multiple injuries and activities that can cause back pain in a horse. Horses use their back for almost every motion they make. If there is even a small problem in a horse's back, the horse can suffer greatly.



A vet can use several different approaches to find out what the source of the back pain may be. It can be one of the most deceptive ailments varying from simple soreness (indicated by sensitivity to pressure), spinal and pelvic misalignments or a full-blown injury. Imbalanced riders or saddles can also be a common source of back pain or injury.

The most common symptoms of back problems are behaviour problems. If your horse is displaying any of the symptoms below, it may be a back problem:

- evading contact during grooming
- pinning his ears or biting as you saddle him
- sinking, bucking or rearing when you mount
- becomes difficult to catch
- develops annoying under-saddle habits, such as tail swishing
- is fidgety, tense and unable to concentrate
- becomes less responsive to your aids as a riding session progresses

The vet will often start with a basic physical examination of the horse and look for common causes of back soreness that are not always linked to the back directly. During these tests vet may use flexion tests, radiographs, localised anaesthesia and blocks to assist in their diagnosis. These tests are fairly effective in

determining where the pain is coming from and its severity.

If you suspect that your horse has back problems it is important to check everything from how the saddle fits to sore feet as potential causes. Identifying and treating this problem may need a group effort from the owner, the veterinarian, the saddler and the farrier.

As with all equine health related issues, please consult your veterinarian professional for all concerns and questions relating to the health and well being of your horse.



Top Ten Tips for Back Care

1. Make sure the horse is suited to the work it is being asked to do
2. Make sure the rider's style suits the horse's way of going
3. Make sure the horse is appropriately trained
4. Make sure to keep the horse's feet and shoes well maintained
5. Make sure have the horse's teeth regularly checked
6. Make sure to a registered saddle fitter to make sure it fits both horse and rider
7. Make sure that training aids are used appropriately
8. Make sure the horse is properly warmed up and cooled down
9. Make sure that the horse is worked on a suitable training surface
10. Finally, have your horse's back regularly checked

A comfortable horse is a healthy horse!

Choosing the proper saddle for your horse is very important for his or her health. If you don't choose the proper saddle, the seat can cause the weight to be unevenly distributed on the horse's back.

The purpose of a saddle is to take the riders weight off the horse's spine and to distribute the weight over the muscles along their back either side of the spine. At the same time, allowing the horse as much flexibility and freedom of movement, underneath the saddle that is possible.

In order not to get confused you need to first decide what you want and can afford, then go about finding a saddle that:-

FITS YOUR STYLE OF RIDING

Hacking, show jumping, cross country, endurance, dressage



FITS YOUR HORSE

Ask the fitter for advice as well as finding out if they will let you try their saddles for a week or more.

If you have an understanding of the basics of saddle fitting, you will be in a much better position to know which saddle to buy and whether, your fitter is advising you correctly.

Custom-made saddles, designed for an individual horse and rider will fit the best, but are the most expensive. However, many manufacturers now make saddles where minor adjustments can still be carried out, so that they fit you and your horse.

FITS YOU



Saddle Length - The length of the seat of the saddle is the most common measurement when fitting a saddle to a rider. The length and placement of the flaps is also important when saddle fitting as these influence your leg position and how you sit.

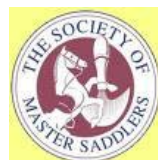
Saddle Width - The width should be wide enough to support your seat bones but without being so wide as to be uncomfortable.

Saddle Balance - This is critical. The rider needs to be placed over the horse's center of balance.

Stirrups - The stirrups vary in length depending on your discipline but in all cases the stirrup leather must be properly placed so that the rider remains in balance over the saddle.

Every rider has their own preferences, so get in touch with how you feel and how your horse feels when you are trying saddles. Get some qualified saddle fitting help, until you are sure you know what you are doing. This could save you a *great deal* of frustration in the future.

The Society of Master Saddlers aims to ensure and achieve a high quality of workmanship through setting standards and overseeing the training of the membership's workforce to give their customers a professional and quantified service. It continues its work to carry these standards through build, repair & fit, and to work towards the complete comfort and safety of horse and rider



www.mastersaddlers.co.uk

What Does a Vetting Involve and How Important is it?

Having a new horse thoroughly examined by a vet is always strongly recommended before you make the final commitment of purchasing your next horse or pony. A vetting examination of a horse is performed on behalf of the purchaser and our vets follow the full BEVA/RCVS guidelines www.rcvs.org.uk while performing a pre-purchase exam.

As our vets follow a general routine of examination, which has been found to be suitable for detecting disease and injury, it is by no means a guarantee of suitability. The assessment acts only as an indication of a horse's suitability for its intended use. This examination is conducted in five stages consisting of:



Stage 1 – Preliminary examination

This is methodical examination of the animal's body to assess general appearance and condition. It includes examination of the teeth, the resting heart, the eyes by ophthalmoscope, the skin, the limbs and feet.

Stage 2 – Trotting up

The animal is walked and trotted on hard, level ground in order to detect gross abnormalities of gait and action. Flexion of the limb joints are performed to reveal pain or limitation of movement.

Stage 3 – Strenuous exercise

The animal is given sufficient strenuous exercise (1) to make it breathe deeply and rapidly so that any unusual breathing sounds may be heard (2) to increase the action of the heart so that abnormalities may be more easily detected, and (3) to tire the animal so that any existing strains and injuries may be revealed by stiffness or lameness after a period of rest.



Stage 4 – A period of rest

The horse is allowed to stand quietly for a period. During this time the breathing and heart are checked as they return to their resting levels.

Stage 5 – The second trot and foot examination

The horse is walked and trotted again, turned sharply and backed, in order to reveal abnormalities exacerbated by the strenuous exercise stage.

When booking a 5 Stage vetting bear in mind that it generally takes anywhere from 1 ½ - 2 hours, you will require someone to ride the horse and there should be an area to strenuously exercise the horse. As well, there should be a hard and soft surface to trot the horse on.



Booking A Vetting

When you call in to book a vetting you will be required to give the following details:

PURCHASER DETAILS

Name, address, postal code, phones for the purchaser
Is the purchaser a client of ours?

SELLER DETAILS

Name, address, postal code, phones for the seller
Is the seller a client of ours?

HORSE DETAILS

Horse's name, age, colour, sex, breed/type & price
Will the horse be insured
Do you require x-rays with the vetting
Are there any points of concern you want investigated
Any additional investigations:
tendon ultrasound, endoscopy of the respiratory tract
What purpose you will be using the horse for :
Dressage, General Riding, Hunting, Eventing,
Showjumping, Polo, Pony Club

VETTING DETAILS

If you want a 5 Stage, 2 Stage or Insurance Vetting
Where the horse will be located for the vetting
Will the purchaser be present

You will be informed of the price of the vetting and quoted a price for the zone visit and finally, you will be asked to give your credit card details as we take payment on the card on the day of the vetting.

