

STABLE CLOSE EQUINE PRACTICE
EQUINE VETERINARY CARE ACROSS HAMPSHIRE

Spring / 2025

SPRING EQUINE NEWSLETTER

Team Update

With the new year **Becca** and Simon welcomed the safe arrival of their first baby Wilf. Becca is being much missed on the vet team while she hones a different set of skills and we look forward to her rejoining the team soon!

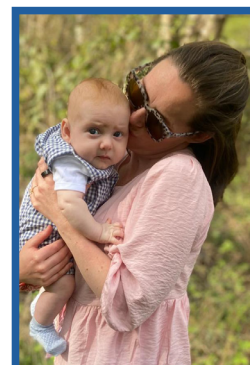
In February, **Malcolm Morley** joined **World Horse Welfare** as the UK Director. World Horse Welfare's mission is to improve the lives of horses and strengthen the horse-human relationship worldwide through care, research, education, and advocacy. We wish Malcolm the best of success in his new role and look forward to the positive impact he will have on the organisation and the equine community.

We are excited to announce that **Vicky Jux**, a long-standing member of our team, has stepped into the role of Clinical Director at Stable Close Equine Practice. Vicky has been with us since 2014 and achieved her Certificate of Advanced Veterinary Practice in 2023, focusing on diagnostic imaging. We would like to congratulate Vicky and look forward to her continued work alongside **Alex Sergeant** and the entire SCEP team, providing exceptional care for you and your horses.

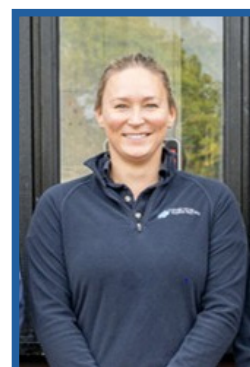
Our **client evening** last November was very well supported, with at least the same number of clients who were disappointed to have missed such informative presentations. For those who missed **Archie's** talk on "Current Thoughts on Worming Strategies" he will be giving the presentation again at **Fawley Farm Feeds**, Privett near Alton on 16th April, 7pm.

Watch our **Facebook** page for details of the upcoming Stable Close Equine Practice client evening - facebook.com/stableclose

We have seen an enthusiastic uptake of the **vaccination offer** being sponsored by the vaccine manufacturers. If your Flu vaccine has gone out of date you can restart it (in March or April) with two initial doses approximately 4-6 weeks apart and the third vaccine dose 6 months later free of charge (visit fee is applicable). Contact our office for further details or to book before the end of April!



Becca and Wilf



Vicky Jux



Archie Moffat

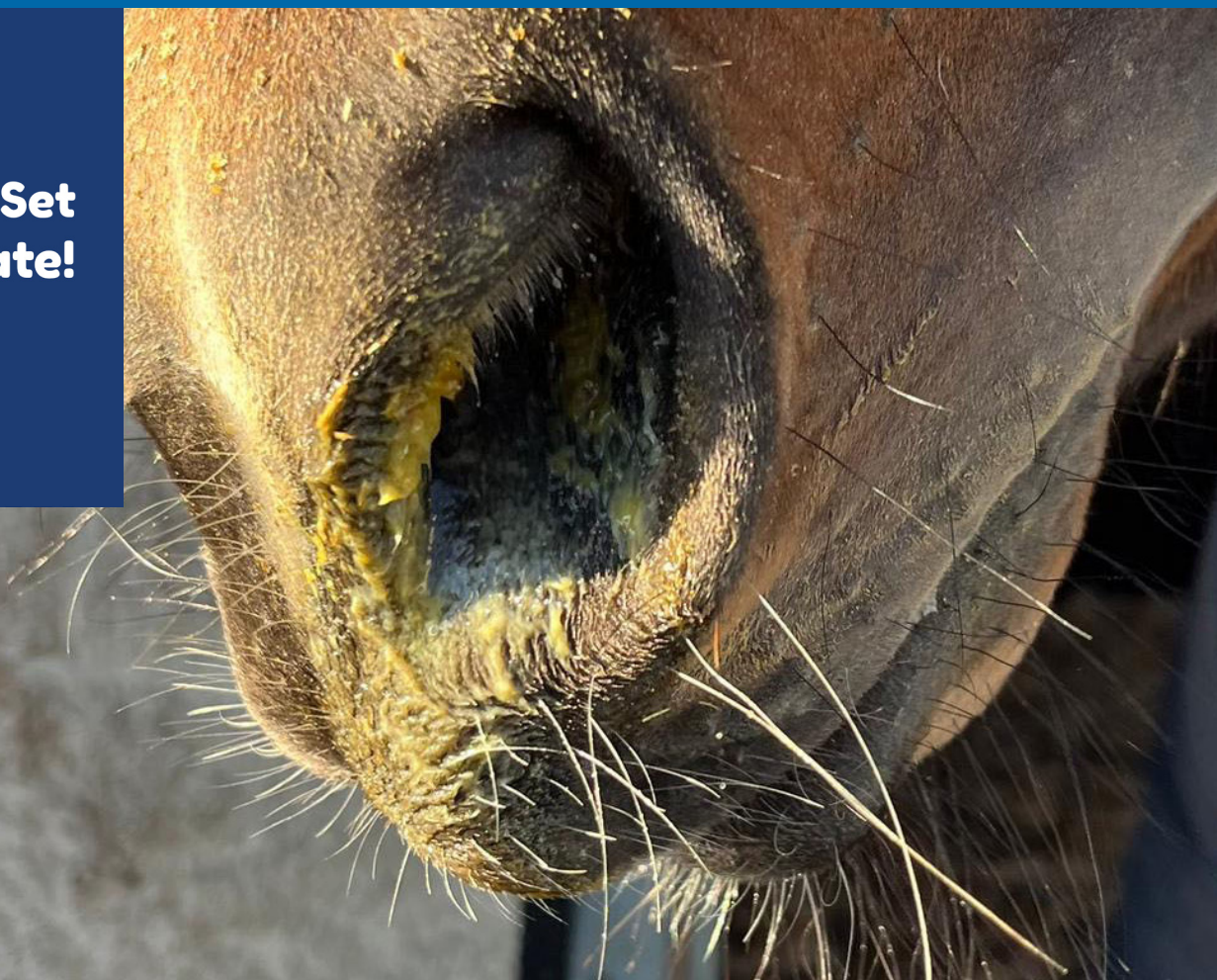
horsevet.co.uk | 01962 779111

Stable Close Equine Practice, Bridgets Farm, Bridgets Lane,
Martyr Worthy, Winchester, SO21 1AR



Ready...Set Vaccinate!

Protect your horse
from equine influenza



Equine influenza is a highly contagious respiratory disease that spreads quickly among horses ponies and donkeys especially in close contact environments. Regular vaccination and biosecurity measures are essential to prevent outbreaks and protect your horse's health.

What is Equine Influenza?

Equine influenza specifically targets the respiratory system and spreads through:

- Airborne particles:
From coughing or sneezing horses
- Direct contact:
Nose-to-nose interactions
- Contaminated surfaces:
Grooming tools, feed buckets,
or clothing
- Human transmission:
Via hands, clothes,
or equipment

While rarely fatal, it significantly impacts health and performance.

Clinical Signs:

- High temperature
(102-106°F or 38.9-41.1°C)
- Persistent cough and
nasal discharge
- Lethargy and loss of appetite
- Swollen lymph nodes
- Increased respiratory rate
and muscle soreness

Recovery takes 2-3 weeks, with early detection and care being crucial.

Vaccination: The Best Defence

Vaccination is the cornerstone of prevention, offering:

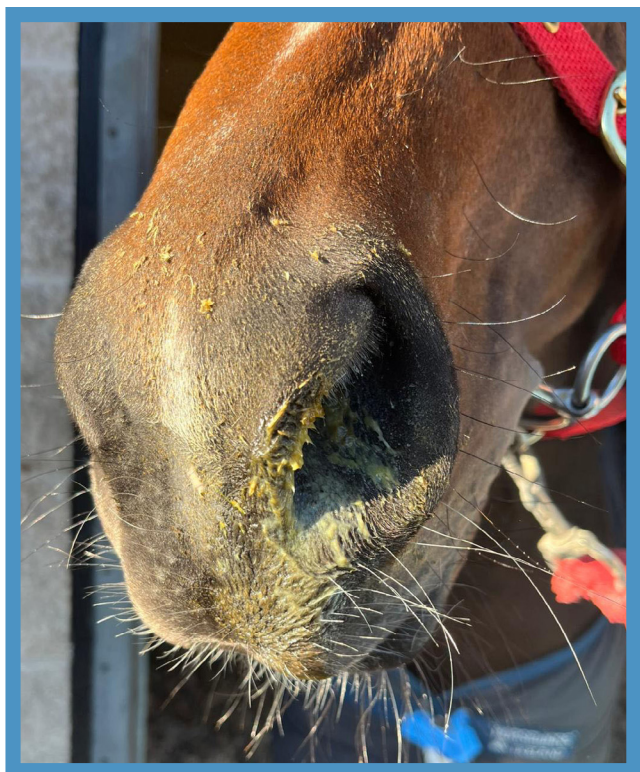
- Reduced risk of infection and severity
- Herd immunity to limit outbreaks
- Compliance with event and competition requirements

Why vaccinate every six months?

- Immunity wanes over time
- Protects against evolving strains
- Ensures peak health and performance year-round

Why retired horses still need to be vaccinated:

- Even horses that don't travel can contract influenza through in direct exposure
- Vaccination keeps them healthy and reduces the risk of severe illness



Prevention Tips:

- Vaccinate regularly as advised by your vet
- Quarantine new arrivals and isolate sick horses
- Maintain strict hygiene and biosecurity
- Ensure well-ventilated stables and monitor for signs of illness

Contact us today to book your horse's flu vaccination appointment.

Protecting your horse has never been more straight forward!



Spring Grazing Guide

Essential tips for keeping your horse healthy.

As the winter frost fades and the first signs of spring emerge, lush green pastures begin to flourish. While spring grass is a welcome sight, it also presents unique challenges and considerations for horse owners. Here's what you need to know to keep your horse healthy and happy as they transition to spring grazing.

Why Is spring grass a concern?

Spring grass is rich in non-structural carbohydrates (NSCs), particularly fructans. These sugars are essential for plant growth but can pose health risks for horses, especially those prone to metabolic issues. The rapid growth of spring grass can lead to sudden dietary changes, potentially causing digestive disturbances and other health problems.

Key risks associated with spring grass

- **Laminitis:**
High levels of NSCs can trigger laminitis, a painful and potentially debilitating condition affecting the hooves. Horses with insulin resistance or equine metabolic syndrome are particularly vulnerable
- **Colic:**
A sudden change in diet, such as increased access to rich spring grass, can upset the balance of the gut microbiome, leading to colic
- **Weight Gain:**
For horses that are easy keepers, unrestricted grazing on nutrient-dense spring grass can lead to rapid weight gain, increasing the risk of obesity and associated health problems

Tips for Managing Spring Grazing:

Gradual introduction:

To avoid digestive upset, introduce your horse to spring grass gradually and increase the duration over two to three weeks.

Use grazing muzzles:

For horses that are prone to over indulging or have a history of metabolic issues, grazing muzzle can help limit their intake while still allowing them to enjoy pasture time.

Monitor pasture conditions:

Spring grass is most concentrated in sugars during cool, sunny mornings and less so in the late evening. Adjust grazing times accordingly to reduce the risk of overload.

Regular exercise:

Maintaining a consistent exercise routine can help manage weight and reduce the risk of metabolic problems.



Signs Your Horse May Be Struggling:

Keep a close eye on your horse for warning signs, such as:

- Increased hoof sensitivity or lameness
- Changes in weight or body condition
- Behavioural changes, such as lethargy or agitation
- Digestive upset, including loose stools or signs of colic

If you notice any of these signs, consult your vet immediately.

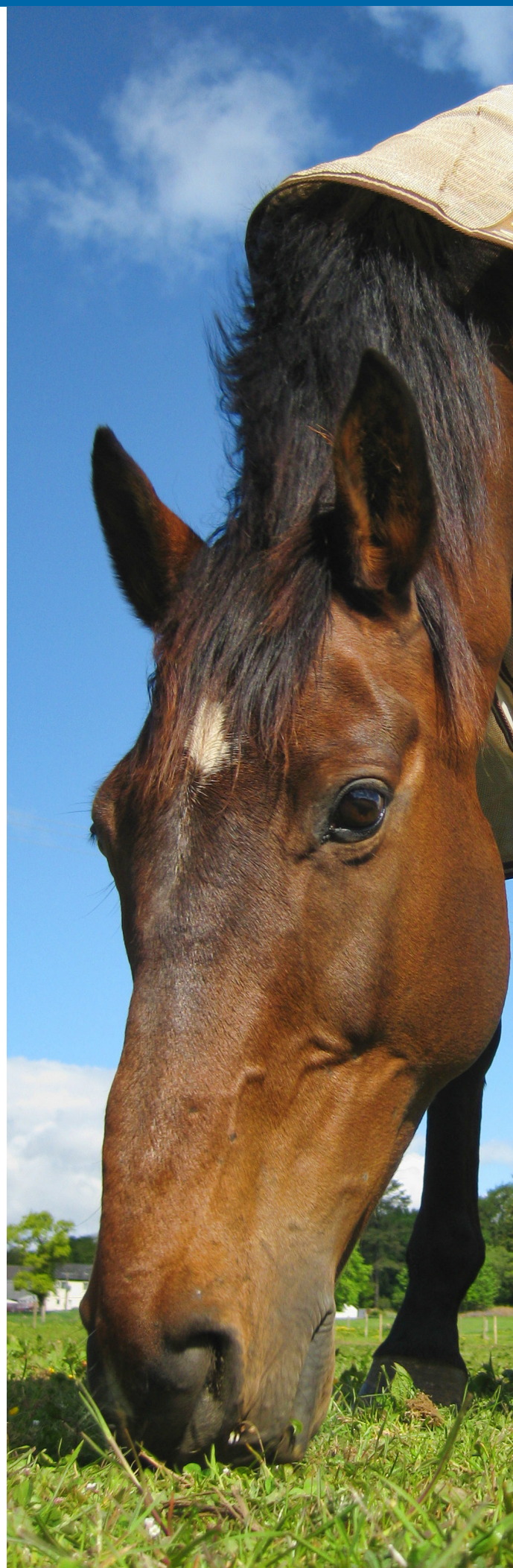
Your horse or pony's risk status can be easily assessed with simple blood tests to check for an abnormal insulin response in ponies with Equine Metabolic Syndrome and for elevated levels of ACTH - a hormone released if your horse has Cushings Disease (PPID).

Regular monitoring, blood work and dietary adjustments under veterinary guidance can help keep these horses safe during the spring grazing season.

Always consult your vet if you're unsure how to manage your horse's transition to spring grass.

Did you know?

Horses prone to conditions such as laminitis, PPID or insulin resistance require extra vigilance.



Spring - The perfect time for a soundness check-up for your horse

Now spring is here you're sure to be early anticipating more time in the saddle. However, before you dive into spring training or leisurely hacks, it's crucial to ensure your horse is fit and ready for the season ahead. Scheduling a soundness check-up with your vet is one of the best steps you can take to safeguard your horse's health and performance.

Why spring is the ideal time for a check-up:

Post-winter assessment:

Winter can be a challenging season for horses. Reduced exercise, icy or uneven footing, and changes in turnout routines can lead to stiffness, loss of condition, or unnoticed injuries. A soundness exam provides a comprehensive assessment to detect and address any lingering issues.

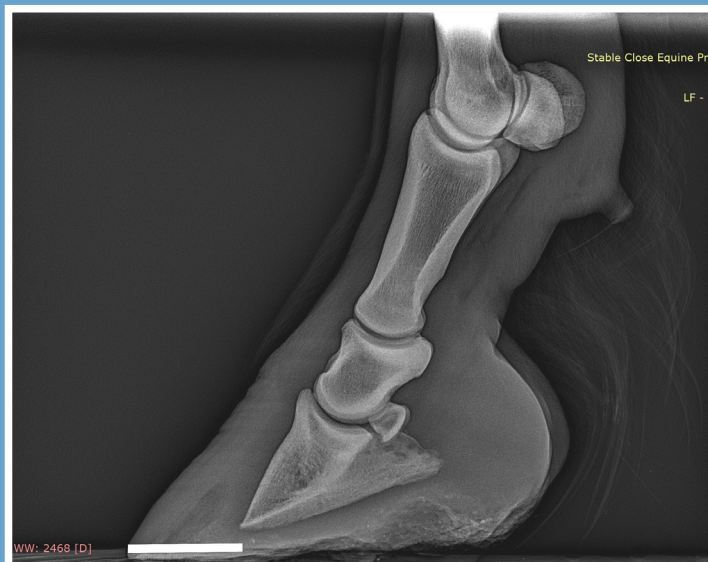
Preparation for increased activity:

As spring arrives, many horses transition to a more active schedule. Whether your plans include competitions or pleasure riding, ensuring your horse is physically prepared reduces the risk of injury and improves performance.

Monitoring chronic conditions:

For horses with existing conditions like arthritis or past injuries, spring is a pivotal time to evaluate their status. Your vet can recommend adjustments to their management, such as tailored exercise routines or supportive therapies, to keep them comfortable and active.





Foot Balance Radiographs

What to expect during a soundness check-up:

A soundness check-up is a thorough evaluation of your horse's overall movement. Your vet may include the following:

- **Physical examination:** Checking for signs of pain, heat, or swelling in the limbs and joints
- **Movement evaluation:** Observing your horse at walk and trot, in hand or on the lunge, to detect any lameness or irregularities
- **Flexion tests:** To assess joint flexibility and identify areas of discomfort
- **Hoof health check:** Examining the hooves for signs of imbalance, cracks, or underlying issues that could compromise soundness. Foot balance x-rays can provide invaluable information which your vet and farrier can discuss to improve the biomechanics and support of the foot.
- **Additional diagnostics:** If needed, imaging techniques like X-rays or ultrasound can provide further insight into potential problems

Benefits of a spring soundness check-up:

- **Injury prevention:** Catching minor issues early can prevent them from escalating into more serious problems
- **Customised care plans:** Your vet can recommend a tailored exercise programme, or therapeutic interventions to support your horse's needs
- **Peace of mind:** Knowing your horse is sound and healthy allows you to move forward with confidence as you plan your spring and summer activities

Partnering with your vet for a healthy spring:

Your vet is an invaluable partner in keeping your horse at their best. A spring soundness check-up not only helps identify and address potential issues but also sets the stage for a successful and enjoyable season ahead.

Be proactive and schedule your horse's exam today—because a sound horse is a happy horse!