

Equine News: September 2023

We are delighted to announce that on 1st September, our vets Steph Cook and Euan Laidlaw officially became directors and shareholders of Scott Mitchell Veterinary Care Ltd. We are very proud to be maintaining and reinforcing the independence of the Practice at a time when so many vet practice owners have sold to large corporate organisations. We strongly believe that selling to City investors dilutes the passion and care that comes from being owned by local people. We are therefore firmly committed to staying independent, offering a truly caring service to you, our clients - and the animals that you love. We will continue to build and grow the Practice and provide opportunities for our amazing team to invest in SMVC. Thank you for your continued support and all your good wishes as Steph and Euan become part of the SMVC leadership team.



Laminitis Club member talks

Last Wednesday saw the delivery of the second in a series of talks for our Laminitis Prevention Club members, a field walk with agronomist Hannah Shirt.

We observed the difference in physical appearance and the soil sample results from two adjacent pastures one restricted grazing paddock that was dropping picked daily and a larger paddock. We learnt the science behind why we see changes in the grass in areas where droppings and urine have been and why it becomes less palatable. We learnt the importance of prompt dropping removal in the battle against laminitis to prevent nutrient return to the pasture in particular potassium, a key player in the transportation of nutrients to the plant. We could observe this difference in soil analysis between the two pastures with the restricted paddock having much lower soil potassium due to regular dropping collection. Hannah explained the soil analysis element by element and how the pH or acidity of the soil can affect their availability and how some of these elements can affect the soil structure. We learnt that almost all soil is sodium deficient and the importance of salt supplementation in the form of rock salt licks in the pasture.



The take home message was that soil and forage analysis can be beneficial tools in the management of laminitis but the complex interactions between the elements means knowledgeable interpretation of the results is key and it must be remembered that each horse is an individual in the way they process nutrients.

We would like to thank everyone who attended the evening and a special thanks to Claire North-Lewis for allowing us to host the talk at her farm, and of course to Hannah for sharing her knowledge with us all!

The next club talk is Tuesday 19th September 7pm at the Hexham surgery.

Liz Mitchell will discuss "Insulin testing as a tool in laminitis prevention, the story so far." This will be an interactive discussion as before with lots of opportunities to ask questions and discuss personal experiences with the group and of course drinks and cakes!

If you are interested in joining the laminitis prevention club please get in touch, we would love to welcome new members to the group.

Laminitis Prevention Plan
Measure, Monitor and Manage

What is included?

- First Insulin Test*
- Three visits from Horse Weighbridge North East
- Membership to our exclusive online Laminitis Prevention Club
- 10% discount on further insulin testing
- 10% discount on grazing muzzles supplied by Horse Weighbridge North East

*Visit Charges Still Apply

Wolsingham Show

We had a lovely weekend at Wolsingham show. We are proud to support these local events,

Sally provided the veterinary cover over the two days and Steph was involved in the prize giving for the SMVC sponsored British Novice showjumping class.

Well done to everyone competing there, we hope you all had a great time.



A sticky situation for Suzy!

Suzy's owners were really worried when they found her one morning looking really depressed, dribbling saliva and not interested in eating anything. She was even accepting cuddles for the first time in her life so they knew something was really wrong and called for help.

After an initial examination Suzy was sedated to examine her mouth. We found a stick stuck between her molar teeth which was rubbing on the side of her tongue causing a very painful abrasion. The stick was removed and the sharp points on her teeth rasped down to improve her comfort. On recovering from the sedation Suzy was turned out and immediately started gratefully grazing again. Her owners were delighted to have her back to her cheeky self.



Zone Visits September and October

Zone 1 (NE44, NE46-47, NE49 & DH8) - Mon 4th Sept, Mon 2nd Oct

Zone 2 (NE19, NE45 & NE48) - Mon 11th Sept, Mon 9th Oct

Zone 3 (NE1-7, NE12-15, NE18, NE20, NE22-30 & NE61) - usually Sally - Thurs 7th Sept, Thurs 5th Oct usually Liz/Euan Mon 18th Sept, Mon 16th Oct

Zone 4 (NE8-11, NE16-17, NE21, NE31-43)- Mon 25th Sept, Mon 23rd Oct

Zone 5 (DH2-7, DH9 & DL13-16) - Tues 26th Sept, Tues 31st Oct

Zone visits offer a reduced price visit of £20 for one owner and £10 for more than one owner at same yard for planned routine veterinary work.

We are able to offer this service by mapping the most efficient route around the calls – therefore it is not possible to specify a time or vet for a zone visit.

Next Dental Clinic: Wednesday 27th September

The dental clinic allows us to work more efficiently and so we are able to pass on that saving to you with reduced price routine dentistry.



Dental clinics are for routine dental procedures only, for example: examination, power rasping enamel overgrowths; and diastema cleaning and flushing; all carried out under sedation.

Dental clinic routine dental including sedation £70 inc VAT

Dental clinic dental plus diastema flush and sedation £95 inc VAT

Dental clinic diastema flush only inc sedation £35 in VAT

Terms and conditions: Payment must be made at the time of treatment. Please arrive at your allocated time and collect your horse promptly after treatment.