

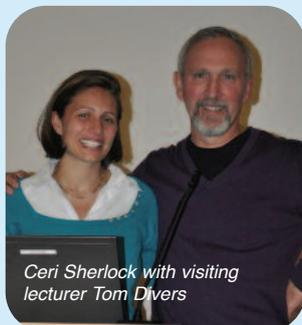
AUTUMN 2012 NEWSLETTER

www.bellequine.co.uk

Tel: 01622 813700

BELL EQUINE
VETERINARY CLINIC

STAFF NEWS

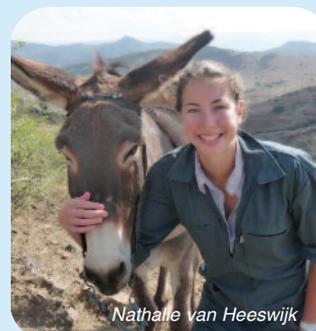


Ceri Sherlock with visiting lecturer Tom Divers

We are delighted to welcome **Ceri Sherlock** back to **BELL EQUINE**. Ceri first worked here as an intern six years ago and then moved to the USA to undertake a surgical residency at the University of Georgia. She became a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Surgeons in 2010. Ceri remained at the University of Georgia until 2011, when she then returned to the UK and took up an equine surgical position at the University of Nottingham. Recently Ceri rejoined **BELL EQUINE** to start a 3-year residency in Diagnostic Imaging in conjunction with the Royal Veterinary College, London.

The residency will involve small animal imaging at the Royal Veterinary College and equine imaging at Bell Equine, including ultrasound, X-rays, nuclear scintigraphy, MRI and CT. Ceri has published a number of scientific articles on aspects of equine surgery and diagnostic imaging. Although she will now be spending a lot of her time looking at images in dark rooms, she will maintain her surgical interests by joining the hospital team on the emergency rota.

Nathalie van Heesewijk has just started as our latest intern after graduating from the University of Bristol vet school, where she was awarded the Rosdadales Equine Studies Prize. Nathalie has already undertaken externships at several dedicated equine hospitals including **BELL EQUINE** and we are delighted she is returning to us to commence a one-year internship after working in Morocco for the past few months.



Nathalie van Heesewijk

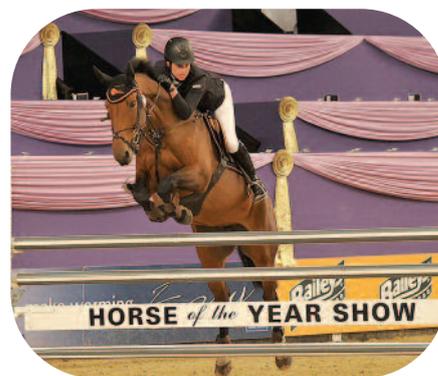
LONDON OLYMPICS

BELL EQUINE is now returning to normal after the excitement of **THE LONDON OLYMPIC & PARALYMPIC GAMES**. Several members of our team worked on site at Greenwich throughout the competitions. In addition, all vet leave was cancelled back at the hospital, where the team remained on standby for any emergency cases requiring evacuation to Bell in the purpose-built London 2012 equine ambulance. Thankfully everything at Greenwich went very smoothly. We did not have to deal with any serious incidents and luckily there were no major injuries. Instead everyone enjoyed the greatest horse show ever! We felt very honoured to be involved and came away with a wonderful feeling of camaraderie in the veterinary team.



HOYS

Following on from LONDON 2012, David Sinclair attended HOYS, where he worked as a member of the vet team there. Again, thankfully, all went well there too and we were delighted to see many of our clients and their horses do so well!



Carly Purves and Rowena II

FREE Blood Test

Until the 30th November the laboratory fees for the initial ACTH blood test (to detect Cushing's disease) will be free of charge. This helps assist early identification of laminitis prone horses and ponies. See talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk for more details and to download a voucher. If you want to know more, call **BELL EQUINE** on **01622 813700** and speak to Edd Knowles. He has a special interest in laminitis & Cushing's disease and has recently published a paper in the *Equine Veterinary Journal* on this subject.

CLINICAL UPDATE: ATYPICAL MYOPATHY

We have seen an increase in the number of cases of this condition. This tends to happen when the weather is cold and wet as at this time of year. Here are a few key points to help you be aware of this disease.

When was it first diagnosed?

Atypical myopathy has been recently reported to be on the increase in the UK and Europe, after first being diagnosed in 1985.

What causes it?

The cause has not been identified although the disease has been linked to toxins produced by bacteria – *Clostridium sordellii*.

How do we diagnose it?

Diagnosis is made by an assessment of clinical signs and a blood test which can be rapidly performed in our hospital laboratory.

What to watch for?

- Sudden onset severe stiffness or weakness unrelated to exercise, which can rapidly lead to recumbency
- Head shaking and whinnying
- Dark red/brown urine
- Recurrent choke-like spasms
- Increased respiratory rate and effort
- Muscle twitching/sweating

What are the risk factors?

- Horses turned out at pasture
- Young stock less than 3 years are most at risk
- Horses in poor condition
- Unwormed and unvaccinated horses
- Poor pasture with water and often dead leaves
- Spring and autumn
- Sudden adverse change in weather (i.e. heavy rain)

This condition has a greater chance of a cure when it is caught early on. If you are concerned, please ring **BELL EQUINE** on **01622 813700** for more advice.

CONGRATULATIONS

• **Lauren Wert** both on successfully completing her year's internship with us and her recent marriage to Brian Manzor (below).



• Our joint head nurse **Matt Legg** and his wife Ruth on the birth of their baby son Finley (all three shown below).



BELL EQUINE VET CLINIC
Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent
ME18 5GS

For **general enquiries and all visits**
Tel: 01622 813700

For **hospital appointments**
Linda Loines Tel: 01622 813700

For **account queries** Pat Oram on
01622 816033 or Jenny Forbes on
01622 816036

BAGS!

BELL EQUINE bags are now for sale at reception for £5 each, neither pony nor puppy



included! All proceeds to the Horse Trust & VETLIFE (the veterinary helpline), two very worthwhile charities. We have direct connections with each of these charities as two of our vets are involved, one being a director for each of these good causes.



REMINDERS

- For the latest practice news, equine information and disease updates join **BELL EQUINE** on Facebook and Twitter

• **FOR BROOD MARES:** we recommend vaccination of pregnant mares against herpes at 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy to reduce the risk of infectious abortion.

• **REMEMBER all foals** require passports by 6 months of age or by 31st December 2012 and all adult horses must have passports too.

AND FINALLY...we would also like to remind clients that we offer a 10% discount for immediate payment at the time of treatment either by cash, cheque, credit or debit card. Alternatively, we allow a 5% discount, if payment is received by the 14th of the month.

If your horse is insured, you should be aware that the insurance companies will take advantage of our prompt payment scheme. So, even if you do not pay in time to receive the discount offered, insurers will still subtract this from your claim and you will be liable for the difference. Therefore we recommend prompt payment. Please ensure that all insurance claim paperwork is completed as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ring our accounts office on **01622 816033** or **816036**, where our staff are experienced in dealing with insurance issues and will be happy to help you.