



# SPRING 2013 NEWSLETTER

www.bellequine.co.uk

Tel: 01622 813700



## PASSPORTS PLEASE

Horse owners must ensure each horse, pony and donkey in their care has a valid passport. Without one you can be fined up to £5,000. With the recent scandal about horsemeat in human foods, these rules are only going to get tighter and we anticipate a much greater level of scrutiny than has previously been the case.

All horse passports must have a **SECTION IX** that we advise should be signed by the owner or keeper to confirm whether the horse is intended or not intended to enter the human food chain. Some older passports do not have these pages. If this is the case, you need to go back to the passport issuing authority that produced that passport and ask for the extra pages to be attached.

If you do not have any passport at all, we can organise for one to be issued - call the office on **01622 813700**. We currently have a **SPECIAL OFFER** of a discounted passport with no ID, but it does include an identifying microchip (which is also a legal requirement) for £50 including VAT (paid on the day), plus any visit fee. This is a limited offer to enable those without passports to fulfill their legal obligations and so avoid a fine.

We **RECOMMEND** you sign to say that your horse is **NOT** going to go for human consumption as this allows us to prescribe phenylbutazone ("bute", i.e. Equipalazone & Danilon) and also other drugs, such as Prascend (pergolide) without complicated record keeping and restrictions. If any horse has "bute", then it **MUST** be signed out of the human food chain. If you are prescribed any medication by our vets, it must **ONLY** be used for the horse for which the treatment has been dispensed.

Once a horse passport is signed out of the food chain it can never be changed, and **provided that passport stays with that horse**, then that animal can never be slaughtered for meat. Microchips are now required when a new horse passport is issued. These are used to double-check the identity of the horse against the passport. In the light of recent concerns, we would ask everyone to have their passports available for the **BELL** team to check when we visit or if you bring your horse, pony or donkey to the hospital.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us on **01622 813700**.



Checking for a microchip

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

• Ceri Sherlock, who has been awarded specialist status by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS) and is now an RCVS Specialist in Equine Surgery.



• Rob Pascoe, one of our vets and resident dental expert. Rob is a qualified vet and equine dental technician, with a particular



interest in safe and simple tooth extractions, ideally performed in the standing horse. He is now the President of the British Veterinary Dental Association.



• Our vet Edd Knowles, who has just passed the first stage of his Diploma in Equine Internal Medicine (DipECEIM) exams, part of his equine medical resident training, which he is completing jointly at our hospital and the Royal Veterinary College.

## STAFF NEWS!

We are pleased to welcome Jessica May to the Bell Equine team. Jess has become our new intern, after graduating from the Royal Veterinary College (RVC). She has been working in mixed practice near to home on the Herefordshire/Gloucestershire borders.

Now Jess is looking forward to the challenges of living in the hospital and taking care of our inpatients over the next year. We are delighted to have her here helping with all the horses, ponies and donkeys in our care.



Some of the **BELL VET TEAM**



## Invitation to a Free Talk on Worming, Antibiotics & Laminitis

We will be holding another **BELL EQUINE** evening of talks for horse owners at Hadlow College Management Centre, Ashes Lane, Hadlow TN11 0AN (opposite the Rose Revived Pub and not at the Main Hadlow College site) on Thursday 6 June 2013 at 7.15pm, guaranteed to finish by 9.15pm. The plan is to discuss the FAQs that you, our clients, often ask us. We are starting with **WISE WORMING & safe use of ANTIBIOTICS**, as well as all you need to know about **LAMINITIS**. Speakers include Jane Morgan MRCVS, Tim Mair MRCVS & Edd Knowles MRVCS. David Sinclair MRCVS will chair the meeting with other members of the **BELL** team present as well to answer your questions. If you would like to join us, please contact our reception team on **01622 813700**. It is first come, first served & there is no charge for the evening.

# FIRST NATIONAL GASTRIC ULCER SURVEY: CALL FOR PERFORMANCE HORSES

As part of a large scale diagnostic study being carried out at the University of Liverpool, **BELL EQUINE** has been selected to take part by scoping performance horses registered with BD, BE or BSJA.

Owners and trainers are therefore invited to put forward their yard for random selection of horses for gastroscopy.

The survey is set to take place during May 2013, and is designed to help improve understanding of equine gastric ulceration. The aim is to ascertain the presence and severity of ulceration in the non-TB performance horse population. The study will play a major role in helping to increase understanding of equine ulceration and how to manage and prevent the condition.

All levels of performance are acceptable but the examined horse must be affiliated to BD, BE or BSJA and have been in work for 4 weeks prior to the scoping day (in May).

The usual cost for gastroscopy and sedation is around £250 + VAT per horse, however the study is kindly being sponsored by Merial Animal Health, so we are able to offer a much-reduced cost of £50 + VAT per horse/yard with 4 horses, but this may vary according to the number of horses involved.

The procedure is straightforward and disruption minimal with the horse usually being able to travel within 2-3 hours and return to normal exercise the following day. If you would like more information or to put forward affiliated horses for consideration, please contact **BELL EQUINE** on **01622 813700**.

## Beyond Bell

Our vets have been travelling to work further afield. **Tim Mair** has just returned from lecturing on colic surgery in Hong Kong, where he presented at the Colic Symposium there. **David Sinclair & Liz Barr** have been in America expanding their equine lameness expertise. David attended the International Society of Equine Locomotor Pathology meeting in California about the horse's elbow and shoulder and Liz was at a meeting on advanced arthroscopy in Cornell's College of Vet Medicine in New York State.

**Julian Samuelson** has been continuing his post-graduate MBA studies at the University of Cambridge and **Edd Knowles** has visited Le Touquet & Nottingham Vet School as part of his training for the European College of Equine Internal Medicine Diploma.

**Karen Coumbe** has recently returned from Kentucky, where she was invited to be part of the vet team at the FEI Rolex Three Day Event. She is now off to do the same at Royal Windsor Horse Show.

## Free Cushing's Blood Test

Following last year's success, the lab fees for the initial ACTH blood test to detect Cushing's disease, will be free of charge to help assist early identification of laminitis prone horses and ponies. See [talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk](http://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 vet, Edd Knowles, who has a special interest in laminitis & Cushing's disease. This offer will run until the end of June 2013.

**MUCH MORE EXCITING** than any of these work related trips, **Jane Morgan** is planning to cycle 1000 miles from Land's End to John O'Groats together with her husband Ben this June.

They are aiming to complete this massive personal challenge in 14 days and raise money for the charity Crisis for homeless people. This long winter has been so cold and bleak, it must be even worse for those who have nowhere to call home. Jane & Ben will be covering on average 70 miles a day, which is a serious ride. We wish them luck!

If you want to support them, they have a web donation site:-

<http://www.justgiving.com/Jane-and-Ben> or speak to Jane directly.



*Jane's cycle ride in June*

## COMMUNICATIONS



**BELL EQUINE** is now on FACEBOOK and TWITTER - please check us out online and "like" us, if



you approve, which we hope you will do! There are links to Facebook & Twitter from our

website homepage. We are now increasingly using our website [www.bellequine.com](http://www.bellequine.com), as well as social media (but will keep this old-fashioned paper newsletter too!) to communicate whatever is going on at **BELL EQUINE** and in the wider horse world.

Even so, in an emergency or when making a routine appointment, it is still best to call our reception at **BELL EQUINE** on **01622 813700**.

**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 within 14 days of receipt of invoice. Please note that we will now be charging interest on all OVERDUE accounts.

### BELL EQUINE VET CLINIC

Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5GS

For **general enquiries and all visits**. Telephone: 01622 813700

For **hospital appointments** Linda Loines. Telephone: 01622 813700

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