

OLYMPICS



Showjumper at the Olympic test event

Karen Coumbe MRCVS has been invited to act as Veterinary Clinic supervisor/treating vet for the Equestrian Beijing Olympic Games and Paralympics 2008 in Hong Kong. So she will be working on the other side of the world for some weeks this summer. Whilst she is away from Bell Equine, Jos Habershon-Butcher MRCVS will be working in her place.



The HK Olympic stadium ready to go



Jos Habershon-Butcher



Some of our patients enjoying the sunshine!

STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to welcome Camilla Scott MRCVS as our newest intern, who started work at Bell Equine in May 2008. After training at the Royal Veterinary College and then spending 18 months in mixed practice Camilla is now living in one of the flats at the equine hospital to look after our equine patients night and day along with other members of our team.



Camilla Scott

Camilla Scott has replaced Edd Knowles MRCVS, who has now completed his hospital internship at Bell Equine. We are delighted that Edd is staying on at Bell Equine. Edd has become one of our ambulatory vets who routinely visit the horses and ponies under our care in their own yards and stables. Together with David Sinclair MRCVS and Francesca Hawkins MRCVS, Edd has special responsibility for the North Kent area.



Edd Knowles

CONGRATULATIONS are due to our vet Jane Lindop MRCVS who successfully completed the London Marathon this April in a very good time (an impressive four hours!) and managed to raise more than £600 for the foundation for the study of infant deaths (FSID) (www.sids.org.uk). Further **congratulations** to Jane, who is getting married in July and will soon be reappearing in our midst as Mrs Morgan MRCVS.



Jane Lindop completing the London Marathon

BELL EQUINE VET CLINIC

Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5GS

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

For **hospital appointments**,
please phone Linda Loines on
01622 816032 or 01622 813700

For **account queries**, please contact
Pat Oram on 01622 816033 or 01622 816036

BUILDING WORK



Our equine hospital

Everyone is delighted that the most recent phase of building work is now completed at our equine hospital. We held a very successful open day in June and all our visitors admired the new facilities. Recent visitors have appreciated the new larger waiting room area and spacious reception area. Behind the scenes we are very proud of our two new anaesthesia recovery boxes that are now completed. This is part of the essential equipment to provide as safe as possible anaesthesia for your

horses and ponies. All the horses having surgery under general anaesthesia at Bell Equine recover from anaesthesia in a padded room for safety. We have just upgraded to the latest and safest non-slip floor that is available with new and better padding on the walls to minimise the anaesthesia recovery risks. General anaesthesia in horses is a high risk procedure and we do everything we can to make it as safe as possible.



New anaesthesia box in use



Moving into the new reception area

MICROCHIPPING



According to a recent survey, only 60% of horses are ID marked. Microchipping is the only permanent and accurate way of identifying horses. The microchips themselves are about the size of a grain of rice and they are implanted into the left side of the crest into the nuchal ligament (as shown above). The chips are very safe and, unlike in dogs and cats, do not move around the body. It costs £28.35 (+VAT) to microchip a horse when we do more than one horse at once. This includes the cost of the microchip and lifelong registration on a central database. It gives you peace of mind that your horse is permanently 'tagged'. Horses are scanned when arriving at rescue centres and lost or stolen horses can then be returned to their owners! From 1st January 2009, all newborn foals will have to be micro-chipped in accordance with European law. It's a great deterrent to potential horse thieves if all horses at a yard are microchipped and can be traced, plus some insurers offer discounts on their annual premiums for microchipped horses.

PASSPORTS

Remember that all horses must have a horse passport now and it is illegal to move or sell a horse without one. If you still haven't got a passport then don't forget that we can offer this service too. Call our office on 01622 813700 if you have any queries on this or microchipping.

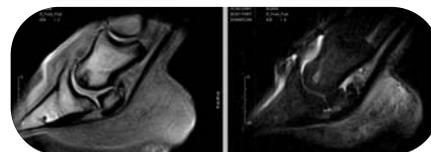
VACCINATIONS

Remembering when your horse's vaccination is due **is your responsibility!** Historically, we have issued vaccination reminders in the post to jog your memory, and we will continue to provide this service but, with ever increasing problems with the postal service, these reminders should not be relied on 100%. If your horse's vaccination goes over its due date, the course will have to be started again and you will incur unnecessary costs. It also helps the vet if your horse's passport is available for signature at the time of vaccination.

MRI MILESTONE

We have now imaged more than 1000 horses with the standing MR Imaging (MRI) unit at Bell Equine Veterinary Clinic. Our early prototype unit was the first MRI machine in the world to provide diagnostic pictures of conscious horses. Our expertise

in this area has continued to increase as the technology becomes more sophisticated and we can now obtain clear pictures of the lower limb of most horses. Unlike radiography (x-rays) or ultrasound, which give information on either bone or soft tissue, MRI provides excellent images of both bone and soft tissue structures simultaneously. This is particularly useful for horses' feet where current imaging techniques limit an accurate diagnosis, yet foot pain is a common cause of lameness. A recent study showed that MRI provided a definitive diagnosis in approximately 70% of foot lameness for which a diagnosis could not be made using conventional techniques. **Tim Mair** leads the MRI team and should be contacted if you have any questions on 01622 816032.



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