

# SUMMER 2012 NEWSLETTER

www.bellequine.co.uk

Tel: 01622 813700

**BELL EQUINE**  
VETERINARY CLINIC

## TRAINING DAY



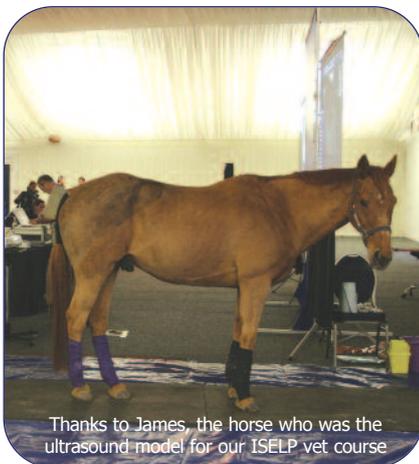
We are often asked to investigate horses' hearts because of poor performance. Horses rarely suffer heart attacks in the same way that people do, but we regularly diagnose and treat irregular heart rhythms (arrhythmias) or more commonly, heart murmurs.

We recently held a Cardiology training day at the hospital for our team. Dr Lesley Young, who is a recognised specialist in veterinary cardiology, spent the day here updating us on the latest techniques using all the cardiac monitoring equipment we have available. As well as our essential stethoscopes, we have a portable ECG (electrocardiograph) machine which can be used to monitor a horse's heart at rest and exercise. We can also perform detailed cardiac ultrasound exams, when needed. This technology allows us to assess the size of the heart chambers and the movement of the heart valves in great detail, so essentially we can see inside the heart.

Thankfully many suspect heart problems turn out to be perfectly fine, but if you have any concerns, please ring **BELL EQUINE** on **01622 813700**.

## MORE TRAINING!

**BELL EQUINE** has just organised the first course to be held in the UK under the



Thanks to James, the horse who was the ultrasound model for our ISELP vet course

auspices of the *International Society of Equine Locomotor Pathology (ISELP)*, with over 100 vets attending from all over Europe and USA. The course took place over 3 days with lectures at the Kent Event Centre in Detling, complete with a horse present for hands-on ultrasound demonstrations.

Then **BELL EQUINE** hosted all the vets at our hospital for two practical sessions on the equine pelvis. This was the first such meeting in the UK. The Kent Event Centre described it as "one of the more unusual events" they had held there. **THANK YOU** to Linda Loines and Gemma Lemon from **BELL EQUINE** for all their hard work to make the whole event run so smoothly. We are delighted to have been invited to host another similar event next year.

## CONGRATULATIONS TO...

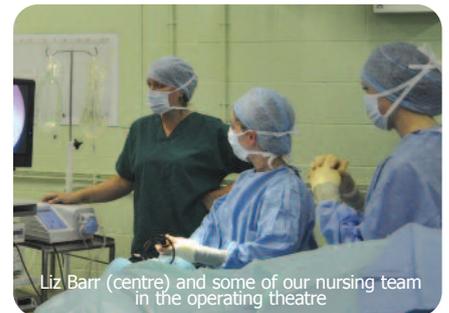
**Julian Samuelson**, who has recently completed 2 years intensive study at the Cambridge University Judge Business School and has been awarded a Cambridge MBA.

This is widely acknowledged to be the one of the most rigorous and testing courses in business administration, studied by business leaders from around the world. It is impressive that Julian has achieved this at the same time as continuing his role here both as the managing partner, but also as a key vet within our ambulatory team. He is normally the man behind the scenes at **BELL EQUINE**, but on this occasion, we want to push him into the foreground to celebrate this and congratulate him on all his hard work. We are all very proud of this immense achievement both within and beyond the practice!



Julian Samuelson

Also our orthopaedic surgeon, **Liz Barr**, has been awarded Equine Orthopaedics specialist status by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons (RCVS). Liz joined us in 2009 and is a member of our hospital team with a particular interest in equine orthopaedic surgery. She is already a Diplomate of the European College of Veterinary Surgeons. Thanks to Liz, equine fracture repairs are now a much more routine procedure at **BELL EQUINE**.



Liz Barr (centre) and some of our nursing team in the operating theatre

## LONDON OLYMPICS

**BELL EQUINE** is very proud to be doing its bit for the Equestrian Events of the London 2012 Olympic Games. Several members of the Bell Equine team will be there as part of the on-site vet team and the whole of **BELL EQUINE VET CLINIC** will be on stand-by as an emergency clinic for the equine competitors. Despite this, we want to reassure all our clients that we will continue to provide our usual excellent service for all throughout the exciting events this summer.

We would like to remind everyone that the Olympic Torch Relay will be coming through Kent and Sussex from **17th to 20th July 2012**. Also the Paralympic Road Cycling takes place around Brands Hatch from **5th to 8th September 2012**. Both these events may slow down road traffic and affect journeys to and from our equine hospital, but apart from that, it will be business as usual!

## DENTISTRY

**CONGRATULATIONS** to **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 has recently been nominated as president-elect for the British Veterinary Dental Association and will become president for the next three years.

We are now expanding our dentistry services with our equine vet nurse **Felicity Suttill**. She has already completed her equine nurse training with us and is now studying to become an equine dental technician (EDT). Some of you may meet her when she accompanies Rob Pascoe on his visits. Rob and Felicity do routine equine dentistry visits together on Wednesdays and Thursdays, as part of Felicity's training for this additional qualification.

If you have any teeth-related questions, these are the two to ask - contact them at **BELL EQUINE** on **01622 813700**.



Felicity Suttill



Rob Pascoe

## WELCOME BACK

We are pleased to welcome **Michael de Cozar**, who has joined **BELL EQUINE** as our new intern. Michael has recently qualified as a vet from the Royal Veterinary College in London and has previously worked at **BELL EQUINE** as a vet student.

He is now here for a year as one of the interns, who lives at our hospital to look after our equine in-patients, but you may also meet him out on the occasional visit to some of our yards. He is looking forward to the new challenges ahead here.



Michael de Cozar

We are also delighted to welcome back **JP (John) King**, who was one of our interns last year. JP has returned to Kent to rejoin

the **BELL EQUINE** ambulatory vet team, after travelling the world for the past six months.



JP King

## COMMUNICATIONS

**BELL EQUINE** is now on **FACEBOOK** and **TWITTER** - please do check us out on-line and "like" us, if you approve, which we hope you will do! There are links to Facebook and 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**.



## WARNING

The wet weather so far this year has resulted in more lush grass than usual, so we are seeing a large number of laminitis cases right now and pus in the foot problems are very common too. Foot abscesses are more frequently seen in wet weather, when horses' hooves have a tendency to soak up mud and subsequently infection as well. It all goes to prove one of our favourite theories that most lameness originates in the foot. Hopefully by the time you read this, the sun will have appeared - we would prefer to see a few more cases of mild sunburn and then maybe foot lameness will no longer be the only hot topic around here!



X-ray picture of a laminitic foot fitted with a surgical clog to support it



Chronic laminitis

**BELL EQUINE VET CLINIC** Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5GS  
For **general enquiries and all visits** Tel: 01622 813700 For **hospital appointments** Linda Loines on 01622 813700  
For **account queries** Pat Oram on 01622 816033 or 01622 816036