

## BELL EQUINE NEWS

We are pleased to CONGRATULATE two of our vets, resident Luisa Smith and partner Karen Coumbe, who have both successfully passed Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons post graduate examinations recently. Karen has obtained the Certificate in Veterinary Anaesthesia (CertVA), whilst Luisa gained the Certificate in Equine Soft Tissue Surgery (CertES (soft tissue)). These additional qualifications enhance the expertise we can offer you, so that we can provide your horses, ponies and donkeys with the very best veterinary care.



*Luisa Smith and Tim Mair operating together*

We would also like to CONGRATULATE Jane Morgan (previously Jane Lindop) and Edd Knowles, two of our vets who have both got married this summer, (but not to each other!), Very best wishes to Mr and Mrs Morgan and Mr and Mrs Knowles!



*Karen Coumbe with one of her favourite Olympic horses, the dressage star, Balagur*

Karen Coumbe has now returned to Bell Equine after an amazing sabbatical in Hong Kong. She worked for the FEI (International Equestrian Federation) as veterinary clinic supervisor and as a

treating vet for the equestrian events of the Beijing 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Games. She has many exciting tales to tell, but to ensure she sees her appointments in time and does not spend all day talking about China, she has supplied some pictures for this newsletter instead.



*TeamGB cooling down after the cross country*



*Corlato and Tim Stockdale jumping*



*Parkmore Ed and William Fox-Pitt's dressage*

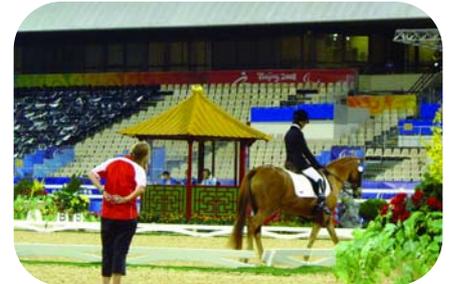
**BELL EQUINE VET CLINIC**  
Mereworth, Maidstone, Kent ME18 5GS

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

## PARALYMPIC PRAISE



*Harvey and Laurentia Tan at the main arena during the Paralympics with Penny Pegrum their trainer*

We are most delighted that Harvey (Nothing to Lose), a Connemara-thoroughbred gelding under our care, won two bronze medals for Singapore at the Paralympic Games. We CONGRATULATE everybody concerned including his rider Laurentia Tan, her trainer Penny Pegrum, owners Mr and Mrs Hurst-Brown and travelling groom Caroline Houghton.

Everyone at Bell Equine is most grateful to Jocelyn Habershon-Butcher MRCVS, usually known as Jos, who worked hard here all summer, whilst Karen was away in Hong Kong. The good news is that Jos has enjoyed herself so much that she is staying on at Bell Equine and we are delighted to welcome her as a permanent member of our team.

We are also pleased to welcome Sue Jones MRCVS as the newest intern to join us. Sue is a recent graduate from the veterinary school at University College, Dublin. Many of you will know Sue as a veterinary student, who has worked with us already. All our interns live on site in the flats within our equine hospital. They work here for a fixed term contract and are responsible for the day-to-day care of our inpatients around the clock.



*Jocelyn Habershon-Butcher (left) and Sue Jones (right)*

## SUPPORT WHEN NEEDED



The new slings in use

Bell Equine has recently purchased a set of equine slings for use in lifting horses in an emergency and for helping in the treatment of any animal that is having difficulty standing. We very much hope you will never need them, but they are now here to provide extra support if it is ever required...

## HEALTH PLANS

We would like to remind our clients that we will be running our Veteran Health Checks again this winter. This is a full check-up that we have designed to help look after our older horse and pony patients. If you wish to enrol your veteran, please contact either of the vets running this scheme, **Jane Morgan MRCVS** or **Karen Coumbe MRCVS** for more information. The fee remains the same as last year at £60 plus VAT for a full health review, two worm egg counts and a detailed report on your horse.

## PRESCRIPTION FEES

From 1st November 2008, there will be a change in the regulations relating to veterinary prescriptions. This means there will be no extra charge for dispensing medicines to your horses from our pharmacy, but there will be a fee for supplying a prescription for use elsewhere. Preparing and providing a prescription for medicines is a professional responsibility and as your vets we can give you accurate information relating to your individual horse, pony or donkey. Please allow us 24 hours' notice to do so when placing your order as it not possible to issue a prescription without consulting a patient's records and it takes time to check everything properly. We cannot supply a prescription to any horse, pony or donkey

## EQUINE FLU - WHAT HAPPENED IN AUSTRALIA?

We strongly recommend that you should consider properly vaccinating your horses, ponies and donkeys to help prevent infection. Many equine insurance policies require regular vaccination. Equine flu continues to be a major global threat, with strains of the virus evolving and spreading worldwide, including in the UK. A recent big outbreak in Australia seriously disrupted their horse industry with major economic loss.

Prior to August 2007, Australia was an equine 'flu free' country, which meant there had never been an outbreak, and as a result it had a totally naïve population of horses. Then one or more infected thoroughbreds from Japan arrived on 8th August 2007. They were held in quarantine stations in both Melbourne and Sydney; however the virus escaped from the Sydney facility. By 10th October the infection had spread to 4,500 premises over an area of 107 square miles. Overall, by the end of the outbreak, more than 76,000 horses on 10,000 properties were infected.

The Australian authorities established zones where the infection would be allowed to exhaust itself and surrounded these areas by buffer zones. A vaccination strategy was developed using the canarypox Vector Vaccine, ProteqFlu® as the main vaccine, which is the same vaccine that we now use here. With a lot of hard work and a carefully

that is not already under our care. Prescription charges will be reasonable and will apply only for prescriptions that are then taken elsewhere. The cost will depend on the medication required, quantity being ordered and what information is required to provide a prescription.

## SEDATION TRIAL

We are currently running a clinical trial on a new equine sedative that has already been used safely on many horses. If you need any of your animals sedated for minor procedures such as clipping or dentistry, please contact Karen Coumbe MRCVS so that your horse, pony or donkey may be considered for entry into this trial at minimal cost to yourselves.



A dirty nose can be a sign of equine flu, especially when complicated by bacterial infection as well

planned vaccination campaign, flu was eradicated. Indeed on 30th June 2008, Australia was officially declared 'flu free' once again.

Outbreaks of equine flu in the UK are rare; however, we have seen the disease locally. It presents with respiratory signs including a snotty nose, coughing, lethargy, fever, inappetence and loss of performance. Equine flu is highly contagious and spreads quickly between animals sharing the same airspace. It tends to be worse in younger animals and can have longer lasting effects, especially if bacteria become involved as well as the flu virus. Pneumonia can be a serious complication and in Australia there were several fatalities in foals.

With the information available from Australia, we have reviewed our equine influenza vaccine usage at Bell Equine. We are now using the same vaccine as was used in Australia to protect against this potentially very infectious disease. This very effective vaccine includes the 'Ohio/03' strain and is the only vaccine in Europe that meets the latest recommendation on vaccine composition from the WHO/OIE Expert Surveillance Panel on Equine Influenza. Reactions to this vaccine are extremely rare.

Tetanus vaccination is recommended for all horses, ponies and donkeys... as well as their owners! Unlike most other diseases, tetanus does not require contact with other horses. In fact, the bacteria and spores are present in the soil. Horses are very susceptible to catching the infection, which can enter via any wound. Unlike flu, from which most horses will recover, the majority of tetanus cases will sadly die despite treatment, so a tetanus vaccination is a must for everyone!

**If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our office on 01622 813700. More information regarding vaccinations is available on the FAQ section of our website:**

[www.bellequine.com](http://www.bellequine.com)

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