

## Staff News

We have been busy at The Barn in the last few months.! Beth Douglas our newest vet has been settling in well and is still looking towards setting up a horseball club in the area. Beth replaced Sam Bishop who has moved back to Devon to be near her parents.

### Professional Development

Our vets have been on a number of Continuing Professional Development Courses recently. Amy Taylor and Chris Pearce attended a two day course on Care of the Hospitalised Horse including foal Intensive Care at Newmarket. Chris also attended a course in Artificial Insemination (AI), a requirement for each vet involved in stud work to attend every three years to keep us registered with BEVA as a recognised practice for frozen AI. Nenad attended a 2-day teaching course in France on laparoscopy (key-hole surgery techniques) Martin Peaty attended the Intervet Thoroughbred Racing and Breeding Seminar at Cheltenham, Europe's largest annual Thoroughbred Conference. He also attended an advanced arthroscopy course in Germany. Tim Adams attended a course in Ophthalmology and Beth attended the British Equine Veterinary Association Dentistry Course at Newmarket.

Our nurses have also been keeping up to date with Helena Rathbone our head

nurse attending a two day course on Surgical Nursing, and others away attending college for their Equine Nursing Qualification training.

Regarding special appointments, Martin Peaty has recently been promoted to the post of chief examiner for the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Certificate of Equine Practice.

### Team Chase

After a 4 year absence The Barn Team Chase Team is back! In late October Martin Peaty, nurse Ruby Vowles and clients Sam Abraham and Jane Keats braved the weather to compete at the Bovington Saddle Club Team Chase. They all went round clear but being slightly too fast ended up a very creditable third place. Well done to all those who attended and rode.

### Celebrity Vets!

Two of our vets have recently been interviewed on national radio giving advice about the horse industry —Martin Peaty appeared on 'You and Yours' on Radio 4 discussing the New Forest National Park Authority proposals, and Chris Pearce appeared on the rather less highbrow Chris Evans show on Radio 2 where he was interviewed on Equine Dentistry!

We are sure our clients are pleased to hear that when the nation needs advice on equine matters the Barn Equine Surgery is the port of call!



## Horse Passports—all change!

A raft of proposed changes to the rules governing horse passports have been released recently for public comment, together with legislation to introduce compulsory microchipping for all foals born after 01 July 2009 and also for adult horses on new passport applications.

The proposals also include linking the unique microchip number to the new National Equine Database, which after much delay is due to go online on 24 November 2008.

Other proposals include scanning of horses for a microchip if a duplicate passport is required, that only vets should insert a microchip, and that microchips must be removed if an animal is to go for human consumption.

In March, European member states passed legislation to make microchipping of all foals compulsory from 1 July, 2009.

In response, and following a series of meetings with representatives of the British horse industry, DEFRA

has produced draft legislation to roll out the EU directive. As well as the introduction of microchips to accompany all new horse passports issued in England after 1 July 2009, Defra has tightened and amended existing passport rules, too.

The proposals are at public consultancy stage and anyone wishing to read more should contact DEFRA or go to [www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses](http://www.defra.gov.uk/rural/horses). All comments should be submitted by 02 February 2009.

## WINTER HORSE HEALTH CHECKS

WE are constantly hearing that 'Prevention is better than cure' (see the DEFRA article below) and to this aim we are again offering a service to carry out a full health check on your horse or pony this winter.

The health check consists of:

- Full physical examination - heart, lungs, eyes, limbs, feet and an assessment of the horse's soundness.
- Oral examination / dental check
- Blood sample taken to test for anaemia and infection as well as liver and kidney function.
- Faeces sample collected and analysed for the presence of worm eggs.
- Written report on our findings will be sent to you for your own records.

The cost of this is £69.99 plus VAT and visit fee.

## 'Strangles' update

In the last month or two there have been a number of 'Strangles' outbreaks (streptococcus equi var equi infection) on yards in and around the New Forest. These have generally been managed well, with one yard of over 30 horses containing the outbreak to a single pony with our help and good staff and public compliance.

Many of you may have read previous articles in our newsletters about 'Strangles'. This is because the disease 'surfaces' or re-emerges every couple of years or so because some horses that have been infected in the past remain infected for many years and act as carriers of the disease. Normally horses become immune to the disease for many years, possibly for life after infection, but some develop abscesses in the guttural pouch (large paired sacs of the auditory tube in the head) during the infectious phase and then are unable to clear the infection from these structures once they get over the main infection. Pus then leaks from these structures down the nose intermittently for many years afterwards, infecting other susceptible horses as they come along.

Until recently it was difficult to detect these 'carriers' in the horse population but now the Animal Health Trust has developed a simple blood test which can do just that. The blood test is only for detecting carriers, and will only work 6 months or more after any strangles infection, so it is not useful as a test during an outbreak for recently infected horses. It is however

very useful if testing other horses to see if they could be carriers. Therefore it may be useful for:

- Horses that have been known to have had strangles 6 months ago or more, to see if they could now be carriers.
- Horses that have intermittent, usually one sided yellow nasal discharges.
- Horses suspected to have had strangles but did not have swabs taken to confirm freedom of infection.
- Horses suspected to be carriers or the source of an outbreak.

### Vaccination

Many clients have asked recently if the Strangles vaccination which was taken off the market last year will be available again at some time soon. The answer unfortunately is that no date has been given yet for renewed availability. The production problem at the factory appears to be more complex than initially thought so it may be many months if the vaccine reappears, if at all.



A horse with 'Strangles' infection

## DEFRA announces future Strategy for Animal Welfare

Following the introduction this year of the revised Animal Welfare Act, the Department of the Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) have published proposals for an Animal Health and Welfare Strategy. It is described as a 'vision for animal health and welfare in Great Britain, showing where we want to be in 2014'.

The hope is that the new guidelines will be a source of help, information and guidance to anyone involved with the keeping of animals whether for commercial or private interest. It will impact on the requirements for equine care from professional livery yards, studs and riding schools to horses kept just as field companions. It will focus heavily on *prevention* rather than cure and will make it clear that prevention of disease

through vigilance and education is extremely important.

It is hoped that this strategy will help prevent cases such as the Amersham cruelty case earlier this year, and also to help guard against future disease outbreaks as for example the Equine Influenza outbreak in Australia

If anyone is interested in finding out more then contact DEFRA or go to [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)



## Client Evening

In October we held a client evening at The Hub in Verwood on biting problems with Hilary Vernon as guest speaker, and worming of horses by Nenad Zilic. The evening was a great success, with almost all of you enjoying the large professional hall and wide screen presentations.

We are grateful for those of you who attended and passed on such positive comments. We are likely to use the same venue again, topics are yet to be decided but a joint vet and farrier meeting on shoeing and lameness looks a strong contender.

If you have any other suggestions please e-mail us at [enquiries@barnequine.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@barnequine.co.uk).

