

New Directorship

Since our last newsletter The Barn Equine Surgery has become a Limited Company. This is a change designed to strengthen our business and provide stability for the future.

The business now has directors instead of partners, and in addition we are delighted to have admitted Amy Reynolds as a new director this year. Amy has been with us for 3 years and will be known to many of you - as Amy Taylor - Amy married Guy Reynolds, an apprentice farrier with County Forge last year and has now changed her surname. We are delighted that she has made a long term commitment by becoming a director (and getting married!), and we wish her every success for the future.



Amy Reynolds MRCVS

New Vet

This year, despite the uncertain economic climate, we will be employing an additional veterinary surgeon to bring our team of equine vets up to seven. The successful candidate Natalie McGoldrick will be starting in April - more on Natalie in our next newsletter. This will ensure that during the busy spring and summer period, we always have vets available for routine and emergency calls.

Local Equine Vet Retires

Equine vet Len Beach MRCVS has recently retired from the area. Len has been running a single handed equine practice for over 10 years from Three Legged Cross. We have assisted many of Len's clients over the years by attending to them out of hours when Len was away, or by helping out with cases using our diagnostic and surgical facilities.

We would like to assure any of Len's old clients that we would be most welcoming, being their nearest local equine practice, and know that Len would be happy to pass on any relevant case histories to us. We would like to wish Len a long and happy retirement!

Best Value Veterinary Care

We are constantly hearing in the news about the 'credit crunch', and how our lives may be affected by it this year. For this reason we have made sure that our prices for veterinary care are highly competitive but that our commitment to providing you with the best possible service and facilities remains unchanged. There are a number of things that we have done to help our clients financially this year:

- Vaccine prices have been frozen again this year so no price increase for the third year running
- Our group rate dental clinic price is also frozen again at £59 (inc VAT) per horse (for clinics of 6 or more horses), no visit fee, sedative included
- Free telephone advice on any subject, free call-back service if vets busy
- No charge for completing insurance claim forms
- We will always provide the best value service and where possible give you treatment alternatives for problems that arise. With some more serious conditions there may be only one way to effect a cure but we will always try to give you a choice where we can
- We are happy to share visit costs between clients or even to charge an 'area visit' at reduced cost if we are in the local area (by prior arrangement).

Staff Nursing qualifications

We are very pleased to report that having completed her training, our head nurse Helena Rathbone has sat and passed her final Veterinary Nursing exams and is now a fully qualified Equine Veterinary Nurse (EVN). Helena is one of the first nurses in the UK to have completed the equine only track to qualification and we congratulate her for all her hard work.

We are very keen for our nurses to be able to provide our patients with the best support care when with us, and feel that the commitment to training nurses is highly valuable to our practice.

We have two other nurses training for their qualifications, both being eligible for examination entry in two years.

CLIENT EVENING

Last Autumn we held a client evening at The Hub in Verwood, where many of you came to listen to Hilary Vernon talking about bits and biting of horses.

Following on from this, and by popular request, this Spring we will be holding another evening at the same venue - this time the subject is 'Laminitis—a risk for all horses'. Acclaimed specialist farrier Andrew Poynton, the inventor of the 'Imprint' range of thermoplastic remedial shoes will be speaking and taking questions on management and shoeing for the laminitic pony or horse. There will also be a presentation by the practice on medical advances in the understanding of laminitis, how it develops and if we can predict and identify horses at risk in advance.

The evening will be on Wednesday May 13th, at The Hub in Verwood, 7.30pm start. Please telephone the surgery in advance to reserve a place.

British Equine Veterinary Association Emergency Services Protocol



Over the last year the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) has continued its initiative to train vets and support the training of the Emergency Services (mostly the Fire Service) in horse rescue services. This includes such situations as horses stuck in ditches, or in trailers or lorries involved in road traffic accidents. The scheme has proved to be highly successful and has been up and running for over 5 years with Hampshire Fire Service helping to pioneer the new training.



We are proud to say that our vet Tim Adams MRCVS was involved from the start as it was his efforts in dealing with a trapped horse that was instrumental in setting up the protocol and fund. When Tim's beloved family horse 'Bom di di bom', became trapped in a cattle grid, he remained there for three hours following the 999 call made by Tim and the subsequent arrival of specialist lifting equipment.

GRASS facts

Spring is here and finally the grass is growing again. It is important to manage pasture effectively to ensure that your paddocks provide the best nutrients for your horses.

Did you know?

- The latin name for grass is Paeceae
- Grass covers 40% of the earth's and over 55% of the UK's land surface
- Grass first appeared on earth 30-65 million years after the first land plants
- Grass is found everywhere on earth except for the deepest arctic regions
- There are more than 10,000 different known species of grass throughout the world
- In Britain the horse industry uses approx. 500,000 - 800,000 hectares of land
- The new growth of grass contains the most nutrients, while grass grazed at 2.5-6.5cm is most productive
- Grass grows when the temperature rises above 6°C both day and night
- The most commonly sown species of grass in the UK is perennial rye grass - it is very responsive to nitrogen fertiliser and is hard-wearing as well as making good hay if not grazed

Make hay while the sun shines!

If taking hay off fields, timing is important. Left too late the vegetation can be too stemmy and has less nutritional value; too early and the yield is not maximised. Making good hay depends on good growth before the seed heads form, and cutting it shortly after – plenty of dry weather and sunshine is also important.

June is the best month for hay cutting and the crop should be allowed to dry in situ and turned at least once. If weather conditions are perfect, hay can be made in three days!

By the time the equipment arrived it was too late to save 'Bom' and he had to be put to sleep.

No one wanted 'Bom' to suffer and die in this way. It was not a lack of veterinary or emergency service support that caused his death, rather a lack of clarity about who was responsible for dealing with this incident and what procedures needed to be followed. So, by the time the appropriate equipment had arrived, it was too late for this fine horse.

Following this and with Tim's input, a clear protocol and a training system has been put in place, along with a list of trained experienced veterinary practices around the country who can be called in the event of an emergency of this type. The protocol means that the animal will receive the appropriate swift care both from the vet and the emergency services.

In recognition for Tim's involvement in setting up the Protocol, he was invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace, where the Protocol and an associated Fund was launched by HRH The Princess Royal.



Vet Tim Adams at Buckingham Palace Royal.

BEVA has subsequently been running many training courses for vets and members of the emergency services, and our local fire services have been very involved right from the start. Our practice is on the recognised list, and at the Barn many of us have now been called out now to emergencies such as these, and there is no doubt that 'Bom' did not die in vain - the Protocol is excellent and the emergency services are getting better all the time.



Vets from The Barn assisting with a rescue

BUILDING PROJECT AT THE BARN

Many of you know that last year we were granted planning consent for a major reconstruction project and expansion of our facilities, with new hospital in-patient facilities, surgical room and dedicated imaging and standing surgical areas. We have already erected new stables, and the next step will be construction of a ménage in the field for exercise assessments including ridden lameness examinations. The main building project is likely to begin next winter.

