

## Castle Veterinary Surgeons: Equine Division

Thank you for choosing Castle Veterinary Surgeons and please find enclosed a short information pack highlighting a few of our services. We are a modern equine hospital with 5 friendly, caring and dedicated equine vets, each with their own specialised areas of interest. The hospital has 3 compassionate equine nurses who will tend to your horses every need as well as guide you through the admission and discharge of your horse. If you have an area of particular interest or would like to pursue alternative procedures or therapies do not hesitate in contacting us to discuss your needs.

In addition to the detailed services a few things you might like to know or would be interested in include:

- **Free monthly yard visit scheme:** Yards where we have 10 or more clients automatically qualify for this scheme. The yard is visited monthly, a booking board, worming programme and weight control programme and weigh tape are provided free of charge. To confirm your interest please call the reception and leave the rest to us.
- **Half price visit days:** We try to visit different areas of the county on different days. To qualify for the visit simply call the reception [to find out when the vet is next due for a half price visit day in your area.](#)
- **Horse Health Schemes:** We offer individual schemes tailored to each horse and your pocket. Please see the enclosed sheets for more details.
- **Sports Horse Programmes:** This is a scheme aimed at competitors needing premium level care where optimum performance is a must. Please see the enclosed sheets for more information.
- **Artificial Insemination and Brood Mare Schemes:** The practise offers two schemes for natural and artificial insemination. These provide full veterinary services during the breeding cycles until the mare is confirmed in foal. Please see the enclosed sheets for more details.
- **Shock Wave:** A new therapy aimed at treating musculoskeletal conditions. We have very good results using the equipment on back pain, splints, tendon and ligament strains, sore shins and various osteoarthritic conditions.

If you have any questions or would simply like to visit the hospital please do not hesitate in contacting us.

## Castle Vets: Equine Division General Services

- Routine health checks
- Vaccinations (Jockey Club and FEI regulated)
- Pre-purchase examinations (vettings)
- Dental Work
  - Routine teeth rasping including the use of motorised equipment
  - Wolf teeth extractions
  - Molar tooth extractions
- Lameness Examination
  - Digital radiography
  - Digital tendon scanning
  - Nerve and joint blocks
  - Stem cell implantation for tendon injuries
  - Laminitis evaluation and treatment
- Focused Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy
- Digital Ultrasound scanning for heart, limb, gastrointestinal and respiratory conditions with Doppler and colour flow ultrasound.
- Fertility work
  - Pre breeding checks
  - Pregnancy scanning
  - AI with chilled and frozen semen
  - Assessment of mares
- Orthopaedic Surgery
  - Arthroscopy (keyhole surgery of joints)
  - Tenoscopy of tendon sheaths and bursae
  - Fracture repair
- Routine Surgical Treatments
  - Castrations
  - Treatment of rigs
  - Correction of limb deviations in foals
  - Treatment of sarcoids
  - Treatment of bone spavin
  - Treatment of heel pain
  - Treatment of sinus infections

- Investigation of Respiratory Problems
  - Endoscopy (scoping)
  - Tracheal washes and BAL (lung wash)
- Investigation of weight loss, chronic colic, liver and kidney disease.
- Upper respiratory tract surgery
  - Tieback
  - Hobday
  - Soft palate resection
- Investigation of poor performance including ECG
- Assessment of skin problems
  - Allergy and sweet itch immunotherapy
- Neurological disease
- Investigation and treatment of neonatal disorders
- Physiotherapy and Chiropracty
  - Investigation and evaluation of back pain
  - Manipulation and correction of back pain
  - Use of shock wave or injection modalities for chronic pain
- | • Farriery: Ian Twedde, Fellow of the Worshipful Company of Farriers conducts remedial farriery work at the clinic.

## **Sports Horse Programme**

The programme is aimed at intermediate and high level performers where optimum results are required throughout the competition season. The aim is to identify, prevent and treat early or subclinical disease providing peace of mind and competition longevity.

The scheme provides:

- FEI and Jockey Club regulated vaccines (Influenza every 6 months with or without Herpes)
- Resting and exercising ECG
- 3 seasonal ultrasound evaluations of flexor tendons
- Resting and post-exercise endoscopy and lung wash
- Endoscopy of the oesophagus
- 3 seasonal blood evaluations
- Twice yearly tooth rasping
- Twice yearly faecal egg counts
- Half price hospitalisation livery if required for any treatment

The visit fee to your premises is not included, nor any use of sedatives (for dentistry). You can request your visits (beginning, mid and end of season, or after specific competitions) or we can simply contact you at appropriate intervals (decided at your initial consultation). The total package is £600 and this can be spread into monthly charges to ease payment.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting the surgery.

## Horse Health Plans

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Influenza Vaccine	✓	✓	✗
Tetanus Vaccine	✓	✓	✓
Twice yearly examination	✓	✗	✗
Once yearly examination	✗	✓	✓
Once yearly blood evaluation	✓	✗	✗
Twice yearly teeth rasping	✓	✗	✗
Once yearly teeth rasping	✗	✓	✓
Twice yearly faecal egg count	✓	✗	✗
Once yearly faecal egg count	✗	✓	✓
Individual worming programme	✓	✓	✓
Half price hospitalisation if required	✓	✓	✗
Cost per month	£20	£12	£8

The visit fee to your premises and any use of sedatives (for dentistry) is not included in the price. You can request your annual or biannual visit at any time or we will simply contact you at the appropriate intervals. The charge is monthly to aim spreading of costs and ease of payment.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting us.

## **Focused Extracorporeal Shock Wave Therapy**

The technology of shock wave therapy is derived from the medical procedure of lithotripsy. Lithotripsy is the exploding of brittle kidney stones via the application of focused high energy pulsed waves or shock waves. These waves create shearing forces that break kidney stones into many small pieces allowing them to be passed. As coincidence, it was found that shock waves focused on areas of bone would stimulate new bone formation. This has served as the foundation for a great deal of recent research in human and veterinary medicine. Shock wave therapy appears to stimulate bone healing through a number of physiologic processes. It is known that shock waves focused on areas of bone appear to significantly increase circulation and the presence of bone forming cells called osteoblasts. Bone density and biomechanical structure appear to increase significantly in the weeks following shock wave therapy. Similar processes are thought to occur in ligaments and tendons when shock waves are focused on injured areas.

To date, shock wave therapy has been used successfully on horses with injuries or inflammatory conditions of the suspensory ligament, lumbosacral ligament and the navicular bone. The therapy is performed in the standing sedated horse. The energy level, frequency and number of shocks to be applied to a specific injury are determined. The transponder is applied to the horse's clipped skin with acoustic coupling gel. The shocks are then applied to the horse with minimal discomfort. The procedure is usually completed in 20 to 30 minutes. Most injuries require 2 to 3 treatments at 7-14 day intervals

If you have any questions please do not hesitate in contacting us.

## Veterinary Packages for Artificial Insemination

We are delighted to be able to offer artificial insemination with chilled or frozen semen for your mare.

Pregnancy rates with chilled semen are comparable to those obtained by natural service (approximately 60% per cycle) but are inherently lower (30-50% per cycle, some taking 3-5 cycles to conceive) with frozen semen. Most mares are suitable for chilled semen AI but frozen semen is generally only used in young fertile mares. Please feel free to discuss the suitability of your mare with us. The obvious advantage of frozen semen is that stallions from almost anywhere in the world can be used, whereas chilled semen must be delivered within 24 hours of collection, restricting its use to mainly UK stallions.

AI has many advantages of natural service but requires more veterinary input than natural service. The costs are higher due to the necessity for a greater number of examinations per cycle, more hormonal manipulations and the cost of collection, processing and transportation of semen. Stallion semen, once frozen and defrosted, has a short life-span of 6-12 hours. Mares must, therefore, be inseminated within 6 hours of ovulation. This lifespan compares with 48 hours for chilled semen and 3-5 days for fresh semen. The time of ovulation can be pinpointed by either (a) frequent (every 6 hours) ultrasound scanning of the ovaries during oestrus, or (b) administration of a hormonal implant (*Ovuplant*) to induce ovulation at a fixed time. Insemination is then performed either when ovulation has occurred, as in the case with frequent scanning, or at a fixed time after the hormonal implant is inserted.

Mares to be inseminated with **frozen** semen must be **resident at the clinic**, usually for a number of days, to allow scanning to take place several times daily in order to achieve maximum pregnancy rates. It is also recommended that mares for chilled semen AI are brought into the clinic but this can be done at your premises in certain situations (you **must have stocks**), when the usual **visit fee will apply**.

We recommend that clients undertake a Pre Breeding check of their mare. The check includes a CEM swab, EVA blood test, vaginal examination, ultrasound examination of the uterus and ovaries.

Insemination packages with fresh, chilled or frozen semen start from **£200**. Conception rates for 2007 were 82% for chilled semen and amazingly 100% for frozen semen.

Services also include management of twins, uterine cysts, subfertile mares, embryo transfer, foal intensive care and orthopaedic repair. We also work closely with Mr A. Spalding, Hedgeholme Stud undertaking chilled semen collection, evaluation and dispatch as well as fresh semen AI.

### Veterinary Packages for AI

- The Pre Breeding check includes;
  - CEM Swab / EVA blood tests / Vaginal examination / Ultrasound examination of uterus and ovaries.
- Artificial Insemination packages includes,
  - All drugs for bringing a mare into oestrus and/or inducing ovulation.
  - Artificial Insemination
  - 14-17 day pregnancy scan
  - 28-30 day scan
  - 42 day scan
- The packages do not cover fees associated with clinical problems for example
  - Uterine inflammation/infection
  - Post insemination uterine lavage (where required)
  - Persistent dioestrus
  - The management of twins
  - Caslicks / vulvoplasty.
- The **packages do not cover visit fees or livery charges.**
- Owners who are **not clients** of this practice will be asked to **pay in advance.**

Pre breeding check	£99.00 + vat
Artificial Insemination with Fresh/Chilled Semen	£200.00 per cycle + vat
Artificial Insemination with Frozen Semen	£320.00 per cycle + vat

## Brood Mare Schemes

In addition to AI we work closely with several stud farms. We offer a Brood Mare Scheme for these horses at stud where it can be difficult, as an owner, to know how often your horse is being scanned or if any extra treatment is being undertaken. Of course you can pay for the individual therapies but a brood mare scheme may suit you better.

The scheme covers all routine gynaecological procedures to achieve and maintain a pregnancy up to 42 days gestation. The scheme includes;

- Uterine swabs/smears
- Pre-breeding ultrasound monitoring of ovarian activity
- Post covering washouts (inclusive of drugs)
- Prostaglandin injections for short cycling
- Caslicks procedure where required
- Pregnancy scanning at days 14-17, 28-30 and 42.
- Twin pregnancy management
- *Chorulon* to aid ovulation

The scheme is limited to four consecutive oestrus periods and mares which are not eligible to the scheme include those over 20 years of age and those that have been covered but remain barren for the previous two years. It is also expected that the owner has (a) protected each mare against Tetanus as a minimum, (b) provided the stud with a current clean CEM certificate, and (c) will provide the stud manager with a previous breeding history.

The scheme costs £160 plus vat and is to be paid before the commencement of veterinary cover.

For a list of the Studs we attend please contact the surgery or if you have any questions again please do not hesitate in contacting us.