



# Gillivervet Ltd.

## Newsletter



[www.gillivervet.co.uk](http://www.gillivervet.co.uk)

Tel: 01257 483161

The Gillivervet website is now fully up and running. You can access the newsletters on the site at:  
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### Gillivervet News

With regret we would like to announce that two of our veterinary team have left us. We would like to wish Kate Southorn and Caroline Bramhall the very best of luck for the future. Caroline has moved on after two fantastic years, returning to her home town in Cheshire to Wright and Morton Veterinary Surgeons. Kate, who we would like to congratulate on the birth of her baby boy, Moses, will be joining Scarsdale Veterinary Centre in her home County, Derbyshire. On a brighter note we would like to welcome 2 new vets to our team and a new member of our yard staff.

**Eleanor Berry**



**Mhairi Mackay  
BVMS MRCVS**



**Hannah Duncan  
BVMS MCRVS**

### WARNING-BONFIRE NIGHT

Bonfire Night is an annual headache for many horse owners. Fireworks can frighten even the most sensible horse with dreadful consequences. Some useful tips:

- \*Find out when and where local displays will be.
- \*If you think your animal will get stressed, talk to us about sedation or consider moving your horse.
- \*Some horses will be soothed by a radio or a companion.
- \*Try to ensure you keep your horse in its normal routine to avoid any unnecessary distress.

**By being proactive in planning for fireworks and bonfire night, you can make the annual event less stressful for you and your horse.**



### Microchipping

Microchipping horses is a routine, safe and effective way of permanent identification, which can aid the recovery of lost or stolen horses.

The procedure involves implanting a microchip deep into the muscular ligament on the left side of the neck. While most horses tolerate this, some may require sedation.

When a scanner is passed over the microchip, the identification appears on the scanner and can be matched with the record on the database.

**Up until now microchipping has only been compulsory for racehorses registered with Weatherbys. New European legislation states that all foals born in or after 2009 must be microchipped. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.**

### Tetanus



Tetanus was once a common cause of death in horses. Increased awareness amongst horse owners of the need to vaccinate is helping to control the disease but it **still remains a threat.**

**Tetanus is a potentially fatal disease.** The bacteria can lie dormant in the soil for years and enter the body through open wounds. Early symptoms of tetanus include patchy sweating, muscle spasms and tremors and increased sensitivity.

**Treatment for tetanus is difficult** which is why it is essential to make sure your horse is up to date with its vaccinations. The tetanus vaccine is usually incorporated with the flu vaccine and administered as a single booster. Please contact the practice for more information.

### Sedation

The demand for sedation increases at this time of year for clipping. Sedation is available in two forms:

\***Oral sedation:** eg. Sedalin  
 \***Injection:** eg. Sedivet  
 The aim of sedation is to produce a standing horse, reluctant to move and indifferent, not responding to its surroundings, not being aroused by noise, touch, handling or movement. The addition of an analgesic (painkiller) to the injection sedative enhances the effects of the sedation. Sedatives work best when given to the horse in a quiet environment and when sufficient time is given to enable the sedative to take effect. Sedative drugs cause a depression of the Central Nervous System, cardiac and respiratory systems. For this reason horses that are being sedated with an injection should have their chest listened to before being sedated to assess for any abnormalities.

**Remember:** Sedated horses can occasionally react unexpectedly, so always handle with extreme care.

## BREED FEATURE

### The Irish Draught

**BIG, BOLD,  
BEAUTIFUL &  
IRISH! THE  
PERFECT EQUINE  
PARTNER.**



As the Hunting season is beginning to get under way, it seems like an appropriate time to think about the versatility of the Irish Draught Horse.

The Irish Draught Horse is an **active, short-shinned, powerful horse** with **substance and quality**. It is **proud of bearing, deep of girth and strong of back and quarters**.

Standing over a lot of ground, it has an **exceptionally strong and sound constitution**. It has an **intelligent and gentle** nature and is noted for its **docility and sense**.

These characteristics along with good, strong clean bone make the Irish Draught an ideal hunting horse. The characteristics of the Irish Draft make them an exceptional horse for breeding purposes. Enid Lord, who has been breeding Irish Draft horses for over 25 years, is the first person to qualify for the Cuddy final with an Irish Draft:

**Ballineen Glen  
Abbess**



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## A Weighty Issue

We all recognise thin horses as being a problem but the ILPH has noticed a dramatic increase in the number of overweight horses around the UK. Understandably, there is a lot of confusion about what the Right Weight for horses actually is. Do you know how much your horse really weighs?

There are many reasons why **knowing the weight of your horse is important**. The health issues are key but you also need to know this in order to calculate the correct dose of wormer – how many of us give a larger dose just to be on the safe side? If you travel your horse in a lorry or trailer, it is vital that you know what the total weight of this is, including your horse and all your equipment, hay, water, etc, to make sure you are under the legal weight limit.

Any animal that carries excess body weight over a prolonged period is likely to suffer from health problems. Aside from the obvious things such as problems with the **heart, lungs and joints**, overweight horses are at an increased risk of **laminitis and hyperlipaemia**, both of which are potentially fatal. For those of you who aren't already aware of these, laminitis is a condition of the hooves where the hoof wall starts to separate from the underlying structures and in severe cases the bone actually erupts through the sole of the foot. As you can imagine this is an incredibly painful condition and is more common than you might think. Laminitis is a recurrent problem, so it is true to say that 'once a laminitic always a laminitic'. Whilst this is widely recognised as a problem in small fat ponies it can and does affect any horse of any breed. Although possible to treat if caught early enough, many horses in the later stages may have to be put to sleep. Hyperlipaemia is caused when the horse's fat stores mobilise into the blood stream. This is usually triggered by sudden starvation i.e. crash-dieting or some other stress factor such as travelling or exercise. In a high percentage of cases this will lead to chronic liver failure and death. Liver failure is a horrific way to die with many of the animals concerned losing sight, coordination and control of breathing amongst other things.

**The World Horse Welfare (ILPH) is running a RIGHT WEIGHT roadshow, check out their website for more information: [www.worldhorsewelfare.org/rightweight](http://www.worldhorsewelfare.org/rightweight) where you can also watch a very informative video clip that we strongly advise you to access.**



### Feeding Talk and Weigh-in

A speaker from Dodson and Horrell, one of the leading feed specialists will be doing a talk on feeding a weaned foal, youngsters and veterans. The talk will be held **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec 2008, 7.30pm** prompt at The Old School Hall, Ulneswalton Lane, Leyland (off Southport Road, A581). Spaces are **VERY** limited so please ring the office to book a place. Tea and coffee will be provided and donations to World Horse Welfare (formally ILPH) would be gratefully accepted.



For most owners, finding out the exact weight of your horse is no easy task so the following day, **Tues 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec**, there will be an opportunity to bring your horse to the veterinary practice (BY PRE-BOOKED APPOINTMENT ONLY) to have it weighed and discuss your horses' individual feeding requirements. A specialist weighing machine will be at **Garwood between 9.30am and 2pm**. **SPACES ARE VERY LIMITED** at 20 minute intervals. Please call us at Gillivervet to book your horse to be weighed.

## Equine Dentistry

Over the last six months we have improved and invested in some of the most up-to-date dental equipment and techniques available. We have the facilities for all routine rasping, large overgrowth reductions, tooth fracture removals and all aspects of diastema work, including cleaning, flushing, widening and temporary packing if required.

We are now dedicating one day a week at the practice for equine dentistry with our experienced veterinary surgeon, Kathleen Innes, to give an all in service to our clients. This eliminates visit charges, provides appointment slots to reduce owner waiting times and allows the use of the excellent facilities available-quality power tools, stocks, experienced staff and sedation if required.



Full dental examinations will be performed and all routine work carried out, with advice and dental charts for the owner to take home. These will also be copied into the individual horse accounts to ensure a good, clear continuity care is provided for your horse in the future.

## Redworm



Redworms are the **most common** of parasites which can affect horses. It is becoming more apparent that redworm **affect horses all year round** rather than just spring and summer. Long term redworm infestation can cause serious damage and the only way to be sure your horse is not infested is to be sure you use a product proven against redworm. Please contact us with any queries.

*Please Contact....*

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