



# Gillivervet Ltd.

## Newsletter

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## Gillivervet News

Congratulations to two members of staff who got married recently, Sarah who works in the office was married in April and Hannah one of our vets was married in May

For those clients that are not aware one of our veterinary surgeons Kyle Black left Gillivervet on 30<sup>th</sup> June to go back to work in New Zealand. We wish him every success for the future.

## Passport Update & Medicine Recording

Since 2005 all equines (horses, ponies, donkeys & zebras) must have a passport. The legislation was updated in 2009 with the primary aim to prevent potentially dangerous medicinal products entering the food chain. If the Veterinary profession doesn't adhere to these regulations then we run the risk of losing certain medicines for use in horses.

All horses transported must be accompanied with their passport. If a horse is sold the passport must be returned to the passport issuing organisation (P.I.O) within 30 days for change of ownership to be recorded.

If the horse dies or is euthanased then the passport must be returned to the P.I.O.

Since the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2009 every foal must be microchipped when applying for a passport. All older horses must be microchipped when applying for a passport.

Before a Veterinary Surgeon can administer any medicine the passport must be examined to see if the horse **is intended for human consumption**. The declaration is in section IX of the passport and **must be signed if not intended for human consumption**.

If the declaration is left **unsigned** then the horse **must be treated as though it is intended for human consumption**.

If the declaration is signed to say it **is intended for human consumption** then certain drugs e.g bute, ACP, somulose & certain antibiotics cannot be given to horses. All other drugs administered must be recorded.

If the declaration is signed to say **not intended for human consumption** then the recording of medicine is greatly reduced and the veterinarian will have a greater choice of drugs to use on your horse.

As a practice we shall continue to implement these regulations

## Vaccinations



This is just a polite reminder that remembering your horse's vaccination dates is the responsibility of the horse owner. Please don't rely on receiving the reminder cards that we send as for one reason and another it may not arrive with you. On the reverse of the newsletter please detach the slip and keep it safe to remind you when your horse's injections are due.

## BREED FEATURE

The Icelandic horse is a breed of horse developed in Iceland. Although the horses are small, at times pony-sized, most registries for the Icelandic refer to it as a horse. Icelandic horses are long-lived and hardy. In their native country they have few diseases; Icelandic law prevents horses from being imported into the country and exported animals are not allowed to return. The Icelandic displays two gaits in addition to the typical walk, trot, and canter/gallop commonly displayed by other breeds. The only breed of horse in Iceland, they are also popular internationally, and sizable populations exist in Europe and North America. The breed is still used for traditional farm work in its native country, as well as for leisure, showing, and racing.



## WORMING: A REVISED APPROACH

Our dependency on drugs to address the problem of worms in horses over the last few decades has, like the emergence of bacteria resistant to human antibiotics, resulted in the emergence of parasites that are resistant to the effects of many of the commonly used wormers. It is likely that this situation will worsen if we do not revise our approach to worming in the years ahead. An effective way to avoid worms is to manage the pasture through regular, preferably daily, removal of droppings, which prevents contamination of the pasture with worm eggs and larvae. This is the easiest where you have a stable population of horses or at least a low turnover of animals, and the manpower or machinery to pick up droppings.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF FAECAL WORM EGG COUNTS

Worm egg counts on dung samples are cost-effective and an essential method for monitoring the effectiveness of your worm management. A small sample of dung from each horse is submitted to the laboratory for analysis and the result will usually be available within a few days. We recommend that this is done every 2-3 months, especially during the spring, summer and autumn.

Approximately 80% of worms are carried by 20-30% of horses and therefore many horses will require worming much less frequently than others. If worms are detected then worm egg counts are also useful in assessing the response to treatment. The fact that a wormer is the same price or lower than having a faecal worm egg count should not warrant treating rather than testing. Each year millions of tubes of wormer that are not necessarily killing any worms are used in horses. This is either because there are no worms to kill or because the worms present are resistant to that drug. This will not only increase resistance to wormers but, most importantly, if worm egg counts are not used then there is no way of knowing if the wormers used are effective, so a horse which is regularly treated may still have an extremely high worm burden.

### TARGETING SPECIFIC WORMS

Tapeworm eggs are not always identified on routine worm egg counts. However a blood test is available which detects antibodies raised by the horse's immune system in response to active or previously present tapeworms. Tapeworms, unlike most other worms (which are cycled between horses), are transmitted via a pasture mite. Consequently, strategic worming against tapeworms is recommended every spring and autumn.

When wormers are required to target specific worms it is important to use them in a way that minimises selection for resistance within the worm population. Dosing for weight, either by using scales or a weigh tape is very important. If in doubt, it is better to slightly overdose rather than risk under-dosing as under-dosing potentially will increase resistance. The selection of wormers available can be daunting and we are always happy to advise you about worming programmes that suit your particular requirements.



*Please Contact...*



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.....please detach and keep for your reference.....

## Vaccination Protocol

Apart from your horse's health and well being, this protocol must be followed if you wish to enter competitions.

### Tetanus

1<sup>st</sup> vaccination  
2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination 4-6 weeks after 1<sup>st</sup>  
Booster every 18-24 months

### Influenza

1<sup>st</sup> vaccination  
2<sup>nd</sup> vaccination 21-92 days after 1<sup>st</sup>  
3<sup>rd</sup> vaccination 150-215 days after 2<sup>nd</sup> (5-7 months)  
Booster annually, within 1 year of previous vaccination

