



# Gillivervet Ltd.

## Newsletter

www.gillivervet.co.uk

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### Gillivervet News

We are delighted to announce that we have two new members of staff at Gillivervet.

**Robert Michael BVSc BSc MRCVS** joined the practice in September. Rob graduated from Liverpool University in 2010 & prior to this did a degree in zoology, after graduation Rob worked on the Devon/Cornwall border in a 75% equine practice. His veterinary interests include equine medicine & ophthalmology.

**Nyomi Martindale** has joined us to work part time looking after the horses on the yard. Nyomi has her own horse and competes in Endurance.



### Tips For Keeping Your Horse Healthy Through Winter

With winter upon us again, here are a few tips to keep your horse happy and healthy if we experience a snowy spell like last year:

- 1) Be prepared, have some grit ready so that walkways can be kept clear.
- 2) Field Shelters. If your horses are out all winter it's advisable to provide them with some form of shelter from the elements, especially in wet weather.
- 3) Rugs. Different breeds of horses can cope better than others with the winter weather. Native ponies are prepared for the harsh weather having their thick coats, whereas the WB's and TB's, and horses that are clipped will need rugging up.
- 4) Feeding. It's important to monitor your horses' weight if he is stabled for a period of time in winter and alter his diet accordingly. Last year we experienced an alarming increase in laminitis cases during the cold weather. Horses were rugged up and stuck in their stables, and so were not burning any calories. As a result they put on weight as there diets' weren't reduced. To help prevent boredom, you could try double netting their haynets so it takes longer for them to eat.
- 5) Water. In very cold weather water troughs will freeze and so extra trips are needed to ensure water is available at all times. Also don't tip water buckets out in front of stables, or let your bucket overflow and spill when its freezing, horses will slip on icy patches! It's also a good idea to offer tepid water after exercise.
- 6) Horse Health. As previously mentioned, Laminitis can be a problem in cold weather. Other problems that can be experienced when horses are stabled for prolonged periods are coughs and colic. With coughs and dust allergies ventilation is the key, so even if its freezing, putting on an extra rug and leaving the windows and top doors open is preferable to keep the air flowing through their stables. Impaction colic ( where the horses large bowel becomes blocked with food material) occurs due to horses diets changing quickly if they have to stop going out, especially if they eat their beds, also if they are exercising less and not having water available to all times.
- 7) Finally, after the snow has melted and your horses are back out in the fields, remember that mudrash can strike. It can present as just a few scabs ranging to cracked heels and sores, which in turn can produce infected legs. It is caused by a bacteria infecting chaffed, waterlogged or otherwise damaged skin. treatment with topical washes and cream will usually clear up the infection, but in severe cases, antibiotics will be needed.



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## BREED FEATURE

### The Irish Sport Horse (ISH)

The Irish Sport Horse is mainly the result of a cross between the [Irish Draught](#) and the [Thoroughbred](#). It has been given recognition as a separate breed. It is commonly bred from parents who are also Irish Sport Horses, in addition to being bred from the definitive parent breeds.

The Irish Sport Horse is traditionally used for all purposes, from transportation, to riding, and working the land. However, it is becoming increasingly popular as a competition riding horse. Its natural athletic ability and fantastic jumping talents means that it excels in the [show jumping](#) arena, as well as competing at the highest levels of [eventing](#). The horse is globally renowned for being one of the best [fox hunting](#) mounts in the world, and the Irish Sport Horse studbook regularly tops the rankings for [eventing](#).

For the 13th consecutive year the Irish Sport Horse Studbook has achieved the prestigious title of the leading studbook in the World Breeding Federation for Sport Horses.



## Payment Terms & Conditions

Due to the current economic conditions, along with increasing bad debt and slow payment procedures, we now encourage payment at the time for visits and treatments. This is in line with payment for veterinary treatment for small animals (i.e. dogs, cats etc). Improvements in payment procedures will enable us to ensure our fees are more affordable and facilities and equipment are kept updated.

**It is essential that clients do pay for the services and treatments provided.**

A **5% discount** off the total invoice will be deducted for all work paid for at the time.

For consultations, investigation and surgical work at Garwood, then payment will be required before you take your horse home.

When visits to your stables are required, payment can be given to the attending veterinary surgeon by cash or credit/debit card. If your horse is insured and requires investigations and treatments that involve an insurance claim, then we request your insurance details and documentation together with payment of the excess at the time or on collection of your horse. We are prepared to await settlement from your insurance company, providing you request that they pay us direct and have paid your excess. If you choose to request the insurance companies pay you, then you must settle your account as per our terms and conditions.

**We will provide written estimates for any treatments and procedures requested.**

For uninsured horses requiring elective investigations and treatments, then a **50% deposit** will be requested before commencement of any work and the balance paid on collection.

For established business and approved regular clients, the account system is available. This facility requires payment within 30days and late payment will result in a **10% late payment surcharge** being added. Failure to settle within 60 days will result in positive credit retrieving activities.

**Clients that need continual chasing for payment will become cash only clients.**

Clients experiencing difficulties with payments or those with unexpectedly large bills should contact the Practice Manager to discuss payment terms.

### *Back By Popular Demand*

Following on from our successful Laminitis Client Evening, we are delighted to welcome back Andrew Poynton of Imprint shoes to talk at our Client Evening in Spring 2012. The date has yet to be arranged & clients will be informed nearer the time.

*Please Contact...*

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