

Summer 2025

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## Last Call for Ram Vasectomies!!

We are coming to the end of our vasectomy season so if you'd like a teaser ram please book us in. Teasers help synchronise ewes and get them cycling at the same time so you can have a more compact lambing season. This allows for better use of manual labour, resources and disease control in lambs. **Remember you need at least 6 weeks after surgery before putting a teaser with the ladies!**

## Equine Clinics

### NO VISIT FEE!

Book into our regular clinics next door at **Dodderhill Equestrian Centre** for routine dentals, vaccinations, blood sampling, weighing and gastroscopy.

### Next clinic:

30th September

**Gastroscopy on clinic days at Dodderhill EC will be at a reduced price of £200 (including sedation).**

Please phone the office  
**01905 773262**  
to book a space



## The Geriatric Horse

### Lameness

A little bit of stiffening up is inevitable as we age and horses are no different. Arthritic horses are often stiff or lame at the beginning of exercise and improve with work. The lameness may be more obvious on hard ground or following an increase in exercise the previous day. Our top tips for horses who are starting to show signs of arthritis:

- ⇒ **Watch their weight to reduce the strain through their joints**
- ⇒ **Keep them moving to reduce stiffness and swelling**
- ⇒ **Increase the frequency of work but reduce the intensity, this may mean dropping down a class, stopping jumping or simply going for shorter hacks. If your horse is stiff 24hours after their exercise, that intensity may be too much for them.**
- ⇒ **Find the cause. Knowing which joint is affected and the degree of joint change present can help you prioritise exercises that support that area of the body and to tailor your horses' workload to a comfortable level. It can help us to plan the most suitable management. Lameness examination, radiographs and ultrasound examination can all be useful in diagnosing your horse's condition**
- ⇒ **We can use adjunct therapies, such as pain relief medications (oral or injectable), joint injections and nutraceuticals to reduce pain and inflammation. Working alongside physiotherapists and chiropractors can provide a holistic approach to pain management. We also offer acupuncture to relieve muscle tension associated with joint pain.**



### Dental Disease

As horses get older their teeth continuously erupt and wear down, therefore have shorter tooth roots which can predispose them to different types of dental disease. Cheek teeth are more prone to damage, loosening and fractures as they become shorter. Fractured or loose teeth may become impacted with feed material during eating which can cause a tooth infection. This may be seen as a swelling on the face or foul smelling nasal discharge. Removal of the fractured or affected teeth and cleaning of the infected tooth socket allows the infection to clear up and lets your horse get back to comfortable eating.

Once teeth have been lost/removed the opposite tooth doesn't get worn down as normal and becomes overgrown meaning more regular dental care is needed to prevent them from affecting your horse's ability to eat. Loss of many teeth may necessitate a diet change to sloppy mash type feeds to make sure your horse can eat enough without risking choke or colic from unchewed forage. Horses are fantastic at masking dental pain so a dental examination by a vet or qualified equine dental technician (EDT) is needed to ensure their mouth is trouble free. We recommend a **full dental examination at least once a year.**

### Cushing's Disease

**20% of horses over the age of 15 develop Cushing's Disease.** The easiest symptom to recognise is poor hair coat shedding leading to the development of a curly coat; however, this doesn't happen in every case, we often find Cushing's is one of the underlying causes in horses and ponies with repeat infections, bouts of laminitis and issues maintaining body condition. We can test for Cushing's with a blood test and use

## Farm Product Name Changes

Alamycin LA ↔ Duocycline LA

Betamox LA ↔ Trymox LA

Loxicom ↔ Metacam

Vitamin E Selen ↔ Flatulex

Synulox ↔ Combiclav ↔ Clavon

Draxxin ↔ Tulieve



## HAEMONCHUS (BARBERPOLE) ALERT

Please be aware that the warm wet weather is a perfect environment for the lifecycle of Haemonchus that effects mostly sheep, goats and camelids. This worm is found in the abomasum, can multiply rapidly and feeds off of blood. Significant blood loss causes anaemia, which if not treated can cause death in both young animals and adults. Alongside anaemia, we can also get bottle jaw and scour (if other gastrointestinal worms are present).

Worm egg counts, special staining tests at an external lab, FAMACHA scoring (checking mucous membrane colour of the inner eyelid), faecal scoring and worm burden history on farm are all things we can monitor to target treatment and planning. If you have a history on farm, make sure you are staying in touch with your vet to ensure you are staying on top of it and treating appropriately. Sudden deaths on farm should be investigated with post mortem examinations because haemonchus is one of the only worms we can see with the naked eye and therefore PME's can be quick and valuable!

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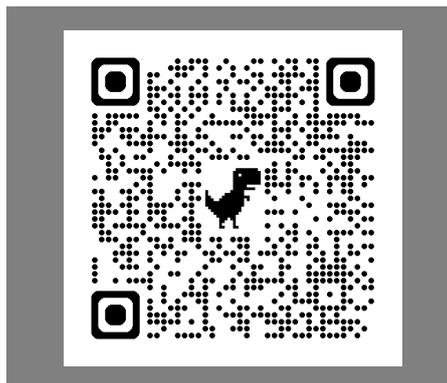
## Blue Tongue Update:

The risk of transmission via infected midges is now considered to be very high in England and most of Great Britain.

On 1 July 2025 the restricted zone for bluetongue has been extended to cover all of England. This means that from this date you will be able to move animals within England without a bluetongue licence or test. Vaccination remains the most effective long-term option for disease control. You are encouraged to discuss On 1 July 2025 the restricted zone for bluetongue will be extended to cover all of England. This means that from this date you will be able to move animals within England without a bluetongue licence or test.

Vaccination remains the most effective long-term option for disease control. You are encouraged to discuss BTV-3 vaccination with us to determine if it is right for your animals. **If you vaccinate your animals you must report it within 48 hours.** Please discuss the BTV-3 vaccination with us to determine if it is right for your herd/flock. **If you vaccinate your animals you must report it within 48 hours.**

Report vaccinations online via QR code or GOV.UK website.



## AHDB BETTER RETURNS Ram MOT Assess your rams

### Toes

Check locomotion, legs and feet

### Teeth

Check for under or overshot jaw, gaps and molar abscesses

### Testicles

Measure and check firmness (like a flexed bicep) with no lumps or bumps

### Tone

Aim for body condition between 3.5-4.0 (spine well covered)

### Treat

Check vaccinations are up-to-date (clostridia, pasteurella), parasites, lameness, shearing?

Consult your vet for a thorough examination



## FARM REMINDERS:

- Order pre-topping vaccines (Enzovax and Toxovax)
- Start thinking about your Autumn/ housing vaccines
- Mid-summer in-house worm egg counts

## DON'T FORGET TO CHECK YOUR VACCINE DATES IN YOUR HORSE'S PASSPORT

### Upcoming Talks:

*Have You Heard About Equine Allergy Testing?*

Wednesday 13th August 18:30

@ The Hadley Bowling Green

Please phone the office to RSVP

01905773262

MacArthur Barstow & Gibbs



VETERINARY SURGEONS