

Summer Issue

1st July 2007

Changing for the future



PRIORS FARM EQUINE SURGERY LTD
01342 823011
www.priorsfarm.co.uk



New Branch Practice: Malthouse Barn Equine Clinic

We are opening a new branch practice at Malthouse Barn Stud, Streat Lane, Streat, Hassocks, West Sussex. This exciting development has been inspired by the increasing demand in the South Downs area.

The aim of the new branch practice is to provide a comprehensive service within the local area. Horses can either be brought to us at Malthouse Barn, or if you prefer we can provide a visiting service to your yard. There will be no visit charge for horses brought to Malthouse Barn and visit charges are being re-priced centring on both Malthouse Barn and Priors Farm. This will result in reduced visit charges for most of our clients south of Haywards Heath. Please call the office or visit our web-site if you would like to know what your visit charge will be.

Malthouse Barn Equine Surgery has a dedicated safe and hygienic examination area. We also have areas for trotting-up, lunging and a recently installed school for lameness investigations.

Hilary Miles manages the livery yard at Malthouse Barn Stud. Hilary worked for many years as an equine nurse at the Liphook Equine Hospital in

Hampshire. She is highly experienced and we are very lucky to have her as a member of the Priors Farm team. Hilary has a special interest in equine behaviour and runs clinics from Malthouse Barn Stud using the "Monty Roberts" technique.

Malthouse Barn Equine Clinic can be contacted on:

01273 890700 (24-hours)

The Branch Practice will cover the following area:



Our New Website

Our new website went "live" at the beginning of February. We have had the site designed very much with your interests in mind. We hope it will provide you with lots of useful information.

Please visit the site at www.priorsfarm.co.uk. We hope that you will find it interesting and informative. We would be delighted to receive any feedback that you might have: good and bad! By its very nature the

site will evolve over time and we will take on board all criticisms and praise.

If you would like to comment please call the office at Priors Farm or Malthouse Barn. If you prefer you can send an e-mail to duncan.harrison@priorsfarm.co.uk.

If you do not have access to the internet we would be very happy to post you a print-out of its content.

Dentistry Special

The average life span of our horses has been gradually increasing over the last fifty years due to a variety of factors including advances in nutrition, management systems, and veterinary medicine. As a result it is not at all uncommon for horses to be leading active and sometimes competitive lives into their twenties or even their thirties.

In general one of the most important factors that dictates the life span of our horses is the state of their teeth. Equine dentistry is a very important, and until recently rather neglected area of equine practice, with many horses suffering from undiagnosed, painful dental disorders. With the advances in sedation techniques, equipment, and our understanding of an increasing raft of dental pathology, we as vets are in a much stronger position to diagnose and treat these conditions. Early diagnosis allows early treatment which will help stop problems before they become severe enough to result in tooth loss.

A consistent feature of equine dental disorders is the wide variety of signs that can indicate a tooth problem. A thorough oral exami-

nation is warranted whenever horses are:

- reluctant to eat
- dropping food from the mouth (quidding)
- excessively salivating or have bad breath
- accumulating feed in the sides of the mouth
- showing poor behaviour when ridden including pulling the head to one side
- having repeated episodes of colic or choke, or are losing weight

However we regularly find spectacular dental abnormalities in horses showing none of these signs!

Detailed below are two of the common disorders we see in the horse's mouth.

In a follow-up article in our next newsletter, incisor problems will be highlighted.



Large overgrown lower cheek tooth as a result of losing a tooth in the upper jaw

Some of the important disorders that we may face....



Enamel Points

These sharp points generally form on the outside of the upper cheek teeth and the inside of the lower cheek teeth. They occur over time as the horse stops chewing correctly resulting in the unopposed edges of the teeth getting longer and the enamel forms razor sharp points. Enamel points traumatize soft tissue causing pain and discomfort when eating and also from bits and other headgear pulling cheeks and tongue into these areas.

The treatment required is to remove the sharp enamel points at regular intervals.



Diastemas

These are spaces that occur between two adjoining teeth. They often result when a cheek tooth forces the opposing teeth apart over time. This may occur when a tooth is lost or extracted. Feed may become trapped between teeth resulting in progressive and severe gum disease. Which may result in overall poor oral health. They very difficult to correct.

Where possible the treatment is to reduce unopposed overgrown teeth (see pictures).

“many horses suffer from undiagnosed, painful dental disorders”



The same tooth shown above that has now been mechanically ground down.

For further information about dentistry and more advice regarding other equine health issues please visit our website: www.priorsfarm.co.uk.