



STATION ROAD, SETTLE, BD24 9AA
 MAIN STREET, HIGH BENTHAM, LA2 7LE
 EQUINE CLINIC, BATHMELL, BD24 9LA



www.daleheadvetgroup.co.uk Tel: (01729) 823538 info@daleheadvetgroup.co.uk

EQUINE DECEMBER NEWSLETTER 2014

Caring For Your Horse This Winter



The forecasters are predicting that this winter we are going to experience some rather extreme weather making caring for our horses difficult. It is important that horses have access to fresh water. Water buckets and troughs should be checked regularly and any ice build up removed. Leaving a football in the trough can help prevent freezing.

It is a time to reconsider your horses feed requirements taking into account any management changes. Some horses are unable to be exercised so need their hard feed reducing. Horses which are housed outside will have to work harder to get to grass through snow, hay is usually supplemented during this time. Always remember to make feed changes gradually: A sudden change from eating grass to being kept inside with no exercise can predispose horses to impaction colic. To try and prevent this we recommend you increase the daily ration of hay gradually, make sure they always have fresh water and monitor the amount of droppings passed. Finally the addition of a warm-watery bran-mash may help keep things moving along.

Snow and ice can pack into the hoof making it uncomfortable for your horse to walk, it is therefore important to pick out your horses feet on a regular basis. Sometimes applying Vaseline to the underside of the hooves can reduce snow balling up in the foot. Ensure that you keep on top of your horses regular shoeing/trimming even if they are not in work. Once the snow melts we are undoubtedly going to be left with muddy fields. Closely monitor your horses legs and if possible allow them to dry naturally before brushing mud off, as hosing and washing with antibacterial products can damage the skin's natural defences. If your horse does develop mud fever please ring the surgery for advice on how to treat it.

Many people put extra rugs on to keep horses warm in cold conditions but don't forget that feeding hay generates heat internally and is an excellent way of keeping snug. Some horses even overheat in the winter so check



your horse regularly. Also remember that native horses are much better at staying warm than Arab or TB types.

If you have any questions regarding your horse's health or if you need any advice please contact the surgery on 01729 823538.

Settle Surgery Festive Opening Times

Monday 22nd December	8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday 23rd December	8.30am-6.30pm
Wednesday 24th December	8.30am-4.30pm
Thursday 25th December	CLOSED
Friday 26th December	CLOSED
Saturday 28th December	9.00am-12.00pm
Monday 29th December	8.30am-6.30pm
Tuesday 30th December	8.30am-6.30pm
Wednesday 31st January	8.30am-4.30pm
Thursday 1st January	CLOSED
Friday 2nd December	8.30am-5.30pm
Saturday 3rd December	9.00am-12.00pm

24 Hour Emergency Care

01729 823538



TOPIC OF THE MONTH

CLIPPING

Clipping may be necessary if your horse gets too hot during exercise and sweats excessively, they may become chilled whilst waiting to dry off in cold weather. This can often happen when they have thicker coats in autumn and winter. You may need to start clipping from September. Some animals may require clipping all year around if they are competing or if they are older horses that struggle to lose their winter coats. If you only clip in winter, the last clip should be no later than the first few weeks in January when your horse will start to grow their summer coat.

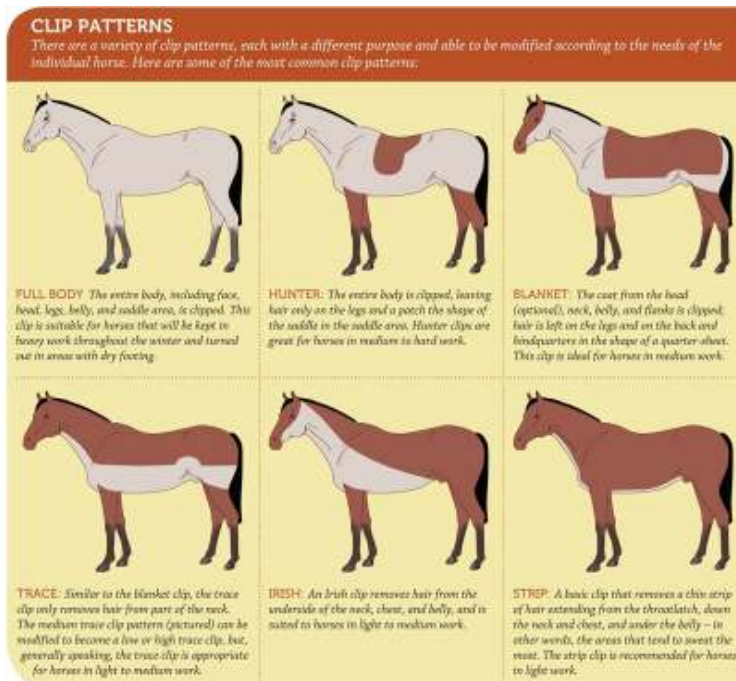
The type of clip you choose will depend on what type of work your horse is doing and how much he sweats. There are a number of clips to choose from; trace, blanket, hunter and full to name a few.

If it is the first time you have clipped your horse be very careful. Many horses are spooked by the noise and may act out of character. Always think of the safety of those clipping and don't take risks.

Introduce clippers to your horse slowly. Initially, with the clippers turned off you could rub them all over his body and calm your horse with some food and a reassuring voice. You can then try and get your horse used to the noise by turning them on without touching your horse and again reassuring him and giving food. Make sure your clippers are in good working order, with plenty of oil and sharp blades and have a circuit breaker if they are plugged in.

Some horses are not happy about being clipped in general or in specific areas, for example around the head, ears or belly. Some can be physically restrained or respond to a twitch but some may require sedation by a vet to allow clipping to be carried out effectively and safely.

There are a number of sedation and calming drugs that are available and we are happy to discuss the options with you, please call the surgery on **01729 823538** to speak to one of our equine vets.



would like to wish all of our client and their pets

A Very Merry Christmas
and
A Happy and Healthy New Year

Please see overleaf for surgery opening times over the festive period.
24 Hour Emergency Care

STAFF NEWS

We are pleased to announce a new member of the Dalehead Equine Team.

Nicola Wainwright BSc (Hons) Equine joined the practice in November and will be assisting the equine department at both Settle and Rathmell.

Having competed since the age of seven, Nicola has extensive experience in all things equine and is currently in the process of breaking and backing her young show cob.

Nicola has previously been involved in equine insurance and claims handling and we are delighted to welcome her to our team.