



PATON & LEE

EQUINE VETERINARY SURGERY

Equine Flu – Are you doing all you can?

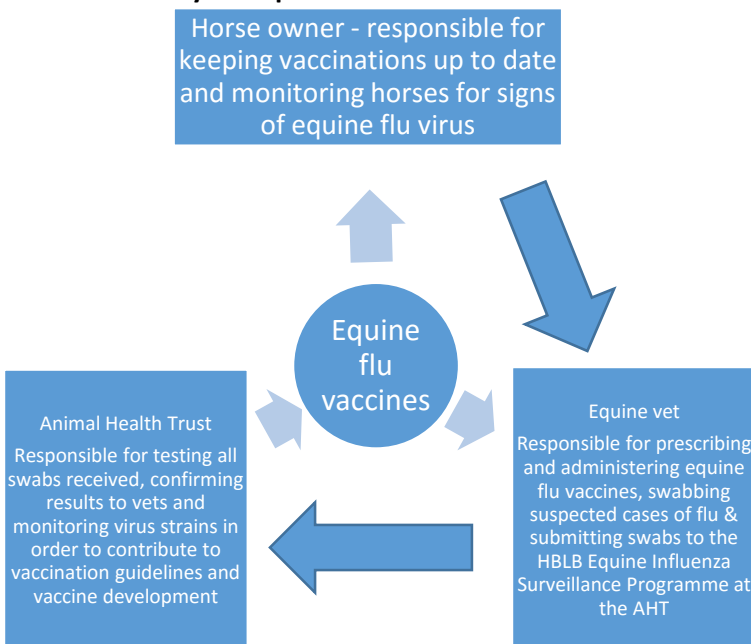
April is Equine Flu Awareness Month and at Paton and Lee we're doing our bit to promote better awareness about this potentially serious disease. Equine flu is an infectious disease affecting the upper respiratory tract of horses. It is prevalent in the UK with frequent outbreaks recorded over the last few years.

A horse with flu needs complete rest and isolation, often putting them out of action for weeks. Crucially, outbreaks can affect competitions of all levels potentially resulting in the cancellation of events in order to control the spread of disease. Clinical signs usually appear within 1–5 days of exposure and can last for 3–6 weeks. They can include a high temperature, cough, nasal discharge, enlarged glands under the lower jaw, conjunctivitis, depression, loss of appetite and swelling of the lower limbs.

If your horse shows any of these clinical signs we suggest consulting us on 01376 513369, even if they have been vaccinated. This will allow us to give appropriate advice, carry out tests if required, and ensure that a suitable treatment plan is put in place. Keep your horse isolated from others during this time as flu is infectious.

The equine flu virus evolves and changes constantly and it is important that its development is monitored in order to ensure vaccines protect against the circulating strains. Recent outbreaks in the UK are known to be of a strain called Florida Clade 2 (a sublineage of H3N8). Current guidelines from the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) recommend that vaccines should contain both Clade 1 and Clade 2 strains of the Florida sublineage and that's why Paton and Lee recommend using the ProteqFlu range of vaccinations – it's the only range that meets these standards.

How do we stay on top of flu?



Hygiene & Biosecurity

Maintaining good hygiene and biosecurity practices on your yard can also help to prevent the spread of equine flu. This includes isolating new horses, disinfecting vehicles, and ensuring horses have their own haynets, feed bowls and tack etc.

Please call us if you would like any further information: 01376 513369.

GET BACK ON TRACK -



If your vaccinations have lapsed or you have unvaccinated horses or ponies and would like to get 'Back on Track' with their flu protection, make sure you take up our April offer. Start a primary course of vaccinations in April, we'll give the second vaccine in the course of three for FREE*. This will save you £39 on the standard course cost, so don't delay – book today on **01376 513369**.

*Your standard visit fee will still apply – why not use our ½ price visit fee 'zone days' to make even greater savings this month?

Worming Care Packages



We mentioned our new Worm Care Packages in the last newsletter and they've proved really popular so far. Zoë (vet) has been busy sending out reminders, for those who require them this month, to send in their horse's poo samples for worm egg counts. If you haven't done a worm egg count yet this year, April or May is the perfect time to start. The laboratory would like to remind everyone how best to send their samples in, because without the correct packaging it can become a smelly, messy, confusing business knowing whose horse poo is whose! Please send your poo samples:

- In clearly labelled, well-sealed bags or containers please.
- Only 1 nugget of poo per horse please – that's all we require.
- For large yards (more than 15 samples) please call ahead to let the office know.
- Large yards (more than 15 samples) cannot be processed on Fridays or Bank Holidays.

If you haven't thought about joining our Worm Care Package, it's well worth considering. It's a simple and affordable way for all of our clients to get the best possible independent and expert advice about managing their horse's worming protocol. The package covers an entire year of worming advice and standard worm treatment for your horse including:

- 3 worm egg counts between March and November, with a text reminder service so you won't forget
- Equest® Pramox treatment (up to 700kg) for effective larvicidal and tapeworm treatment once during the winter period (December to February).
- Professional veterinary worming advice tailored to your individual needs, including an email follow-up of your own worming programme.

The service costs **£49.50** per horse. Full details are available online, or call and ask to speak to Zoë Windley MRCVS.

Is your horse back in training mode?

Lots of us are really getting back into the swing of things with our horses now, what with longer days and more bearable weather! If you're putting your horse through its paces once again and you'd like some help with building lean, fit muscle, Equitop Myoplast® could be a really useful training supplement for you. We currently have £10 off vouchers available on our website, so before you order make sure you've filled one out. Equitop Myoplast® is a unique and natural supplement for horses, packed with 18 key amino acids including 10 essential amino acids. This provides the building blocks for efficient lean muscle development without horses becoming 'fizzy' or bulking up on fats and oils.

A.I. package updates



As the 2016 breeding season starts to hot up, remember that our AI package brochure is available to download online, or you can speak to the office to have one posted out. All breeding packages must be paid for in advance with any additional fees due on collection of your mare from the practice. If you have any questions about equine breeding, please call the office and ask to speak to either Tony or Charlotte, who will be very happy to help you.

**Thank you once again for choosing to use Paton and Lee to treat your horse, pony or donkey.
Paton and Lee, Oak Road, Rivenhall, Essex, CM8 3HG 01376 513369 info@patonandlee.co.uk**