



## VACCINE RULE CHANGES

From 1st January 2024 vaccination rules for Equine Influenza (flu) have changed for many of the equestrian disciplines in accordance with advice from British Equestrian (BEF). Please ensure you don't get caught out.

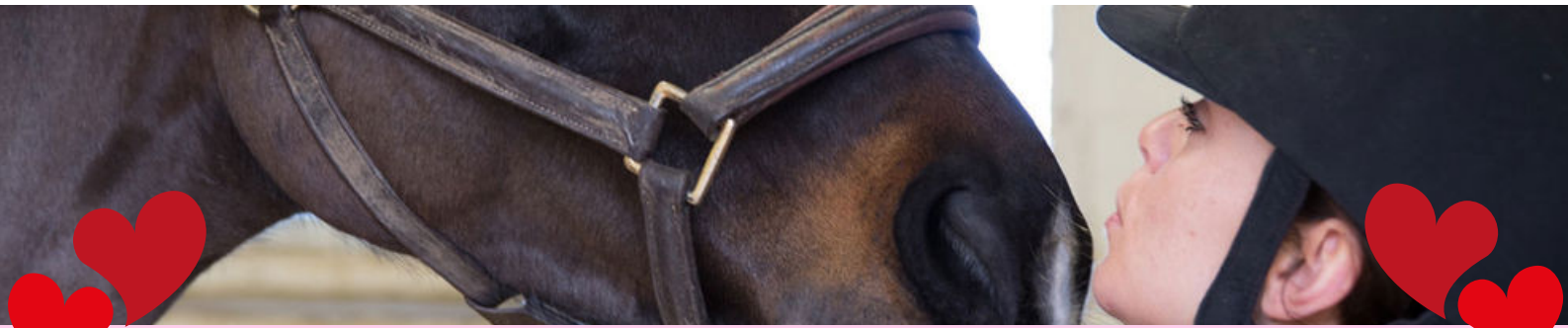
Vaccination intervals after 1st January 2024 have reduced date ranges between the first two vaccinations in a primary course and the first booster. Any horse restarting their vaccinations or commencing a new primary course with effect from 1st January 2024 will be affected by the changes. Vaccinations that are up-to-date and correct will not be affected. Competition horse owners should ensure that their horse or pony is vaccinated for Equine Flu in accordance with the rules of the appropriate sporting governing bodies under which they are competing (e.g. BHA, FEI, British Eventing, British Dressage, British Showjumping, The Pony Club, British Riding Clubs, etc).

Please remember **VACCINATION RULES DIFFER BETWEEN ORGANISATIONS**. It is your responsibility to ensure that your horse or pony's vaccinations are up to date and comply with requirements. Any lapse in the vaccination history, even by a few days, will be considered by the relevant governing body to be a breach of its rules. This may result in your horse being unable to compete or penalties being imposed.

Regardless of whether your horse is competing in BEF member bodies affiliated sports or not, we advise that you follow the BEF advice, which is supported by research evidence and complies with the recommendations of vaccine manufacturers.

Our office teams and vets are happy to offer advice and check your horse's vaccination record prior to a competition.

	Intervals before 1st Jan 2024	Intervals after 1st Jan 2024
1st Vaccination (V1)		
2nd Vaccination (V2)	21-92 days	21- 60 days
3rd Vaccination (V3)	150-215 days	120-180 days
Booster	Within 6 or 12 months depending on governing body	Within 6 or 12 months depending on governing body.



## DON'T FORGET YOUR HORSE THIS VALENTINES

Whilst we don't suggest forgetting your loved ones on the 14th February, why not treat your special 4- legged friend to a little pamper time as well. Here are some of the team at Severn Edge Equine's ideas for treating your horse this month.

### GIVE THEM SOME EXTRA GROOMING TIME:

Get to the yard half an hour earlier than usual, or stay longer. Spend some extra time doing what your horse loves. If they enjoy a good brushing then take a bit longer going over their favourite spots. If not, just give some extra cuddles and strokes and enjoy not being rushed for a change.

### TAKE THEM ON A FUN RIDE

Show your horse the love by letting them do something they love on your Valentine's Day ride. Maybe you could take them to an open field or beach for a good gallop out in the fresh air to let them enjoy themselves. You'll enjoy it too!

### SPOIL THEM WITH A NICE GIFT

Again, roses and chocolates are nice. But they've got nothing on carrots and saddle pads. Get your horse a Valentine's Day gift to show your love, perhaps an extra carrot or a swede in the stable.

### BOOK THEM A MASSAGE

Regular massage sessions will ensure that your horse is free of sore spots and tenderness. With so many different options available speak to your vet today about which treatments we think will be best for your horse.

# SAND COLIC- THE DANGERS & SIGNS

Sand is a relatively common cause of colic in horses in certain parts of the country. Animals ingest it as they graze and it can accumulate in the colon over time. Here it irritates the gut lining and, in sufficient quantity, also has the ability to cause impaction of the gut which, if not treated in time, can be fatal. Our Vet Megan Cummings BVSc MRCVS and Beth Bromley BVSc MRCVS explain more.

## WHAT IS IT?

Sand colic is a relatively common type of colic in areas with sandy soil, and at times of year when the grazing is poor.

## WHAT ARE THE SIGNS?

- Colic signs
- Diarrhoea, often followed by impaction if not treated
- Inappetence
- Weight loss
- Presence of earth/sand in faeces
- Severe colic if a secondary impaction develops or secondary volvulus (twist) occurs

## WHY DOES IT HAPPEN?

Simply the ingestion of sand/earth, horses can easily ingest earth if they are provided with insufficient nutrition, are on poor pasture and are trying to graze very short grass. Some horses will preferentially graze even if sufficient hay is provided and are therefore likely to be affected when on short pasture and there is still some grass. Horses fed hay on the ground when turned out on bare pasture or in sand schools can easily ingest sand as they are taking in sand as they try and eat the hay. Some horses will try to eat earth, this can be a sign of an underlying disease such as liver disease or may indicate a mineral deficiency, please call us if your horse is seen eating earth.

## HOW DOES THE SAND CAUSE COLIC?

- Horse ingests sand during feeding or grazing
- Small quantities of sand will pass through the gastrointestinal tract
- The sand tends to accumulate in the large colon as it is the fermentative region with reduced flow allowing sand to settle (it is rare for sand to accumulate in the stomach, small intestine or caecum)
- Eventually this accumulation causes a blockage
- This impaction of sand results in colic due to stretching of the bowel wall due to the gas and food material build up in front of the blockage
- In severe cases volvulus (twist) of the colon may be initiated by gravity dependent rotation of the affected segment. Ultimately, a twisted colon can lose blood supply and ultimately die off

- In milder cases, sand in the intestines causes irritation of the mucosal surfaces with consequent inflammation. Inflammation causes increased permeability of the gut wall, with consequent loss of solutes and water into the gut lumen, this results in diarrhoea. Damage to the lining of the gut can result in absorption of endotoxins and in some cases can lead to endotoxemia (sepsis).

## WHAT CAN YOU DO TO?

- Call the vet out if you observe any of the discussed clinical signs, which may range from sudden colic signs to gradual weight loss and diarrhoea. Identifying and preventing sand colic is always the best option!
- Avoid access to poor grazing, and overgrazing
- Ensure all horses have sufficient food
- Feed from troughs and hay nets/racks rather than from the ground
- In high prevalence areas, many horse owners feed Psyllium (this is a lubricating bulk laxative which becomes gelatinous in the intestinal tract) for 7 days once a month to aid passage of sand. The exact dose depends on the individual horse and brand of psyllium used. Please contact us to discuss if you are not sure
- Monitor for sand in droppings by performing a faecal sand test. Use a clear glove or clear bag. Pick up a small sample of droppings and add a moderate amount of water. Allow to separate with gravity. The sand will settle at the bottom of the glove/ bag. A very small amount of sand is acceptable however a large amount is not and may suggest a large build-up of sand in the bowel. Please feel free to send us pictures of your faecal sand test for us to assess.



## SAVE THE DATES

### UPCOMING GASTROSCOPY CLINCS

DATES: 29th February, 27th March, 25th April 2024

VENUE: Kingsnordley Equestrian

PRICE:

BOOK: Please call to book your place today 01584 841 080