

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR LOOKING AFTER YOUR HORSE DURING THE COLD AND WET WINTER MONTHS

WATER IN WINTER

Even in winter, horses need access to plenty of water, as dehydration can lead to colic, a painful digestive issue. Horses may be less inclined to drink in the winter, particularly if the water is very cold.

To entice a horse to drink you could add a little apple cider vinegar or molasses to their water. Washing water buckets with a minty cordial may also encourage them to drink. Some owners add electrolytes to the horse's feed to encourage drinking, as electrolytes promote thirst. However, this should be done carefully to avoid excessive intake.

Water buffet encourages drinking by using the below method.

- 1 bucket of sweet water like apple juice or molasses.
- 1 bucket of water with electrolytes.
- 1 bucket of water clean and fresh.

Another alternative to encourage drinking is apple bobbing. Slice up apples and add to clean fresh water.



GRAZING IN WINTER

Many will likely be concerned about snow cover preventing horses from grazing. This depends more upon the type of land and grasses the horses are grazing please speak to one of the team today if you have concerns. Frosty grass can have a higher sugar content, especially on sunny mornings. This is because the grass makes sugars during the day, but can't use them for growth when it's too cold at night.

The increased sugar content can be a problem for horses and ponies that are prone to laminitis.

Whilst pasture is dormant you can take the following steps to keep horses well fed and warm during the winter:

- Provide more forage
- Offer hay
- Provide fresh, unfrozen water
- Limit turnout on frosty days



RUGGING IN WINTER

Don't over rug your horse. As a rough guide for a clipped horse stabled at night, a 200g rug down to around 0 degrees Celsius. If your horse isn't clipped, a no fill sheet or 100g will suffice. Unclipped horses have a very good natural heating system of air pockets through the coat and will lose this if over rugged as the hair will become flattened, although every horse is different. Ensuring horses stay dry is most important.



THE FIRST STEP TO PROPER WINTER CARE IS CORRECT FEEDING. AN AVERAGE HORSE NEEDS TO CONSUME 2% OF ITS BODY WEIGHT PER DAY TO MAINTAIN BODY CONDITION.

Did you know that Severn Edge Equine has a qualified Equine Nutritionist? Nicky can recommend bespoke feed plans for your ponies and horses today to ensure that they are not over fed this Winter. Contact us **today** to book.

01584 841 080



equineadmin@severnedgevets.co.uk



HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR DETAILS WITH US?

Sadly emergencies can happen when we are not available or perhaps away on holiday. There is no worse feeling that you are not there for your horse during this time.

It is VITAL that you have an emergency plan and that you update us so that we are able to offer the very best care to both your horse and you in these situations.

We ask that you:

- Review and update your emergency plan annually
- Review your plan if there's a change to your horse's health that would impact the decisions you'd originally made
- Nominate an authorised representative to act on your behalf, if you're uncontactable in an emergency
- Notify us (your vet) and yard owner of your emergency plan and authorised person. If you have a yard manager, ideally they'd be the authorised person where possible
- Make sure your emergency plan is readily available. The more information that we have the better!

- Please do not be alarmed or offended if we contact you during these situations. We do where possible want to ensure you are aware of what is going on and also discuss the situation with you as the owner.

BHS has a link on their website for an emergency care plan or speak to the admin team at Severn Edge Equine today, 01584 841 080.



OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD WE WILL CONTINUE TO OFFER EMERGENCY OUT OF HOURS SERVICE WHEN THE PRACTICE IS CLOSED.

VETS ON CALL THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve - Beth Hadley

Christmas Day - Megan Cummings

Boxing Day - Hannah Briggs

Please call the usual number during this period to get through to our OOH vet.

Severn Edge Equine Practice will be open as below:

Monday 23rd December 8:30am- 5:00pm

Tuesday 24th December 8:30am- 3:00pm

Wednesday 25th December CLOSED

Thursday 26th December CLOSED

Friday 27th December 8:30am- 5:00pm

Monday 30th December 8:30am- 5:00pm

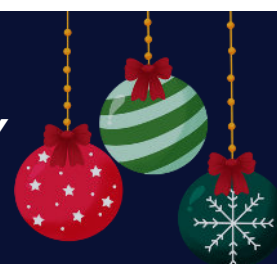
Tuesday 31st December 8:30am- 5:00pm

Wednesday 1st January CLOSED

Thursday 2nd January 8:30am- 5:00pm

*Merry
Christmas*

**WISHING ALL OUR CLIENTS A VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY
NEW YEAR**



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