



# AVONVALE NEWS

Autumn 2009 : open day | visit fees | passports | Mongolia | lab offer

## Practice News

### John's Re-application

John Williams would like to extend huge thanks to all who have written him letters supporting his re-application to the RCVS register of Veterinary Surgeons.

John was overwhelmed to receive over 400 letters of support and encouragement, with many people taking the trouble to explain how the loss of John from the veterinary profession over the past months has affected them. John has now submitted his re-application to the RCVS and we expect his case will be heard in late October or early November.

We will let you know the outcome as soon as it is announced and hope that we are able to offer you John's veterinary services again very soon.

### Drug dispensing

New regulations on the storage of medicines from the *Veterinary Medicines Directorate*, a government agency, came into force earlier this year. Premises which dispense and store drugs now have to be registered and also have to abide by certain conditions.

This means that the conditions of storage of medicines must be appropriately controlled. The result of this is that **any products which have been dispensed cannot not be accepted back for refund.**

In addition, we now employ tighter stock control. We keep only a limited amount of stock on the shelf, but we are able to place and receive orders from our wholesaler daily. Therefore if you wish to order any products, **please give us 24 hours notice** to ensure that we have sufficient stock available to fulfil your requirements.

## OPEN DAY— Saturday 3rd October 2009

On 3rd October we are holding an **Open Day at Ratley Lodge from 1pm until 4.30pm**. This is open to all and offers an opportunity to find out more about the practice and our facilities.

There will be tours of the practice with demonstrations of thermography, ultrasound scanning, endoscopy, dentistry, first aid and bandaging.

Visitors will also be invited to take a look around our equine operating theatre.

There will be a farriery demonstration in our forge and a presentation by our equine osteopath.

**Please come along and find out more about what Avonvale has to offer.**



## New Visit Scheme

**Following our client survey last year, we are starting to put in place some of the things you suggested.**

Your main request was for us to review our visit fees. We are pleased to announce that we have been able to do this and launched our new visit scheme in July.

### **'Any Vet Visits'**

Greater flexibility from clients enables us to schedule rounds more easily. With this in mind we

now offer 'Any Vet Visits' which benefit from a reduced visit fee if booked more than 2 days in advance.

If you can be flexible with the time of the visit and don't mind which vet you see this is a great way of saving money.

### **Revised Visit Zones**

We have also adjusted our standard charging zones to cover much larger areas resulting in a lower visit fee for many clients.

### **Further savings**

Visits can still be shared between owners on the same yard and we have some write-on wipe-off yard sheets to help you get organised. Please request one of these from reception if you have not already received one and would find it helpful.

Of course, you can still arrange for us to see your horse at the clinic and so avoid any visit fee!

## legislation - Horse Passport Regulations

### **The laws on horse passports changed on 1st July 2009.**

From this date it is an offence to keep a horse without a passport (with a fine of up to £5000). Vets are now legally required to ask to see the passport before treating a horse. Please ensure that Section IX of your horse's passport is completed.

More information can be found on the DEFRA website: [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)

### **Microchips**

Foals now need to be microchipped when you apply for a passport. This must be done before the foal is six months old or by 31 December in the year it is born, whichever is later (or before being sold).

Any horse that does not already have a passport will also need to be microchipped.

Microchipping of horses can only legally be performed by a veterinary surgeon.

### **SPECIAL OFFER**

For a limited time Avonvale are offering a discounted rate for the microchipping and identification of foals and horses. The offer is available until 31 December 2009.

**Please call reception or ask one of the vets for details.**



**Office Hours**  
Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm  
Saturday 8:30am - 12:30pm

**Laboratory Hours**  
Mon-Fri 9:00am - 5:00pm  
Saturday 9:00am - 12:00pm

24hr emergency service

**Contact Us**  
Avonvale Veterinary Practice Ltd  
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[www.avonvaleequine.co.uk](http://www.avonvaleequine.co.uk)

#### About Avonvale

Avonvale Veterinary Practice was established in 1968 to provide high quality veterinary care for horses. The practice rapidly expanded to treat horses, farm animals and small animals. In 1999 the small animal section of the practice became a separate business. Nowadays Avonvale is a predominantly equine veterinary practice offering general practitioner and specialist **1st opinion and clinic based services** to our clients as well as a **specialist equine referral service** for other vets. We continue to provide **vet services for local farm animals** and have an **on site veterinary laboratory** that processes equine, farm and small animal samples. We are based in rural north Oxfordshire but cover a wide area extending from *Oxford* in the south to *Birmingham* in the north and *Northampton* in the east to *Worcester* in the west.

### Alison's Mongolia Trek

Alison, our head nurse has just returned from her Mongolia Horse Trek Challenge where the 27 riders raised over £80,000 for the Brooke Hospital for Animals. In 2009, its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year, the Brooke hopes to improve the lives of 2 million working equids in 10 countries.

"We trekked for 6 days across the panoramic landscapes of the Orkhon National Park, criss-crossing the Orkhon river as its wide flood plain wound between awesome mountain ranges. The landscape is inhabited by small groups of nomadic people living in gers and their herds of horses, yaks, goats, cattle and sheep. Our journey began and ended at Kharkhorin, the historic centre of the Mongol empire and we were privileged to see wild horse herds in their natural habitat. My pony was a quick witted herding pony (a 'light-legs') who was a pleasure to ride and extremely tough and surefooted. He would have made a perfect gymkhana pony with his push button reponses and easy flying changes! The horsemen and cooks looked after us with great hospitality and good humour. The ponies were well cared for and a happy, willing bunch and where necessary I was able to help Ali, the Brooke vet, treat the odd lame or sorefooted one. The 'land of blue sky' also held a fair proportion of rain, snow, hail and thunder, but this did not dampen our spirits. We even managed a disco at our beautiful campsite next to a deep river gorge with a mixture of Mongolian and English music and Mongolian and English dancing until the sun set. The trip was truly an experience of a lifetime."



Alison's pony



One of the many river crossings



The group at the Orkhon Waterfall

I would like to thank again all the people and organisations who donated or supported me and enabled me to exceed my target for this worthy cause. In addition to the previous thank-yous, I would like to thank Dechra Veterinary Products, Animalcare, Vetoquinol, Norbrook, Warwick Racecourse, Robert Waley-Cohen, Peter Thorne, Keith and Karen Arnold, the Avonvale directors, Boehringer Ingelheim, Tony Nevin (Zoo-Ost), Dunlops Veterinary Supplies and Stratford Racecourse.

### laboratory - Free lab tests for livestock

**Intervet Schering-Plough are re-launching their free screening service for livestock owners.**

Barren EweCheck, DairyCheck and BeefCheck have all had great success in previous years, encouraging Intervet SP to continue their pledge to help farmers manage virulent disease in their stock.

Barren EweCheck is a free toxoplasmosis laboratory testing service suitable only for ewes that have not been vaccinated against the disease. Blood samples need to be taken from

6-8 barren/aborted ewes and any positive results are communicated direct to the farmer by Intervet SP.

Year on year, studies show that 60-80 per cent of ewes have been exposed to the disease and this is backed up by Barren EweCheck figures that show an exposure level of 73%. With each lamb lost to abortion costing you up to £100, there is clearly considerable scope for investment to prevent future losses.

BeefCheck and DairyCheck are screening services which enable farmers to identify stock infected with IBR, BVD and Leptospirosis.

These diseases are costly to owners so screening for them using this subsidised scheme is an economical means of identifying problems. Our vets can then help formulate the best strategy for you and your livestock.

The vet visit fee and time will still be charged but there is no charge for the laboratory work. **Please call us for further details.**

#### Directors

**John Williams** MA VetMB

**Chris Colles** BVetMed PhD HonFWCF MRCVS RCVS Specialist in Equine Surgery (Orthopaedics)

**Andrew Higgins** MA VetMB MSc MRCVS

**Naomi de Pennington** MA VetMB CertEM(IntMed) MRCVS

#### Assistants

**Wendy Clark** BVSc DBR MRCVS

**Charlie Boardman** BVSc MRCVS

#### Practice Manager

**Sarah Hibbert** MBA CMgr CVPM