



Newsletter

The Arundel Equine Hospital

Winter 2011

Paul du Preez

As many will now know, the 31st October marks the retirement of Paul du Preez from the Arundel Equine Hospital. Paul joined the practice in 1993 and has been the anchor about which the recent success of the hospital has been built. Paul Marthinus du Preez, a proud South African is a big person in many ways, not just his physical stature and booming voice. His huge capacity for work, his enthusiasm to discuss cases and guide younger vets and his fearless approach to problem solving have been his hallmark. There will be many horses in Sussex and further afield that are living testimony to his surgical skills.

A father-figure to many, he represents calm consideration in a crisis and a confidante in times of personal strife. Through his contacts in the higher echelons of the equine veterinary world Paul has mentored several young vets into positions in academia and guided many others through the difficult first few years in practice. Paul is an accomplished public speaker and communicator, be it reading the eulogy at Robert Allpress's memorial service, giving a veterinary lecture or speaking on behalf of the Practice. He would be the first to admit to 'wearing his heart on his sleeve'. His joy at the arrival in the stables of the first swallows of summer is matched only by his depression when they leave to fly back to Africa and the long, dark nights of winter arrive.

When he's in a good mood the whole place is lifted, when he's in a bad mood – look out! He is a man that possesses great humour and spirit so if you want a party, invite PDP – few that witnessed them will forget his dancing exploits at various Christmas parties over the years. A 17stone Afrikaner doing the twist tends to dominate most dance floors.

Paul has a wide interest in subjects other than veterinary medicine and it is this that makes him such good company and a great host. It is not widely known that he possessed a private pilot's license was an accomplished rugby player and has spent a night in a French prison! He has a passion for animals and the natural world with the African bush, not surprisingly, held dear. Conservatively, Paul is bilingual. His interest in language and its derivation - 'word of the week' has been a recurrent feature - and a smattering of German, French, Dutch, Zulu and Xhosa illustrate his fascination with this topic.

His attempts to convey the joys of the violin concerto contrast well with him often mimicking his favourite drum intro to the Rolling Stones 'Get off of my cloud' which itself compliments his predictable choice of the loudest most upbeat phone ringtone. When he ruptured his achilles tendon at the practice tennis tournament several years ago, his immediate instinct was to get people to feel his heel, to understand the disruption of the anatomy, rather than going for treatment. Family life is



important to Paul and the demands and sacrifices of a busy working life balanced with supporting Katinka, Nicole and Alex has posed many challenges over the years which he has managed with skill and determination. Paul du Preez will be greatly missed by clients and the whole of the Arundel Equine Hospital team, and we wish him well in his future ventures.

Partners

Paul du Preez
Ed Lyall
Rob van Pelt
Matt Waterhouse

North Assistants

Paula Broadhurst
Katie Shore
Simon Staempfli
Stuart Wallis

South Assistants

Pauline Williams
Suzanne Duncan
Andrew Auld
Andy Crawford
Camilla Strang

Intern

Gemma Kirk

Administrative Staff

Lisa Marter (Practice Manager)
Amy Froggatt (Secretary)
Jay Newman (Credit Controller)
Sarah Rogers (Accounts Ad.)
Susie Hargreaves (Accounts Ad.)

Reception Staff

Daisy Baker (Reception Manager)
Carol Hill
Louise Massie
Theresa Clarke
Tanya Bricker
Kate Cross

Clinic Staff

Sally Malone (Clinic Manager)
Rachel Short
John Cole (Yard Assistant)

Veterinary Nurses

Jill Barriff (Joint Head Nurse)
Vicki Bradford (Joint Head Nurse)
Alanna Harper
Tammy Simpson
Ellie Stopforth
Elaine Nihill

Laboratory Staff

Alison Sandiford
Jean Pittcock
Mary Garland
Mary Goldsack
Elaine Hilder





Revised pre purchase examination certificate and new guidance notes

Earlier this year the council of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons approved a revised pre-purchase examination certificate and new guidance notes. This has come after much discussion and consultation.

The old documents were well overdue for review and had remained unchanged since 1986. The new guidance notes are published on our website (www.arundelhorsevets.co.uk).

The key facts to the changes are:

1. The new documents came into force on the 8th of September 2011
2. The format of the examination by your veterinary surgeon remains largely unchanged
3. The new certificate records whether the seller or the agent are clients of the examining veterinary surgeon or their practice.
4. The new certificate records whether the examining veterinary surgeon or their practice has attended the horse and if they have, an opinion is given regarding the significance of any veterinary treatment
5. Flexion tests and trotting on a tight circle on a firm surface are still not mandatory parts of the examination because although they can be

useful, there may be occasions when they are inappropriate, unsuitable, unsafe or impossible to perform. However many purchasers expect them to be performed and so the new certificate records whether or not they were done. If they were not performed the certificate also records the reasons for omitting them.

6. If a blood sample was not taken then a reason for omitting it is recorded on the certificate
7. The new certificate has advice regarding a sellers warranty and obtaining insurance
8. The term 'aged' now refers to horses considered to be over 15 years old whereas previously it could be used for horses considered to be over 8 years old. This is not the result of a change in

the understanding of ageing horses by dentition but because calling a horse 'aged' when it might be less than 15 years old does not reflect common usage of the term.

Once again please feel free to look on our website where the full guidance notes are published. These are written in plain English and are intended for prospective purchasers, sellers and agents.



HICKSTEAD 2012



The British Jumping Derby Meeting
20 - 24 June

The Longines Royal International
Horse Show 17 - 22 July

The All England Jumping Championships
6 - 9 September

www.hickstead.co.uk



Tel: 01273 834315

Terms of Trade

The practice's terms of trade are payment on receipt of invoice; however we do offer a 5% discount if paid at the time of treatment or before the 25th of the month i.e. before the invoice is produced.

Please feel free to phone our accounts department on **01903 882 384** to pay and **receive your discount today.**

Insurance payment pitfalls

In line with our terms of trade, we ask clients to settle their invoices on receipt of invoice however we do appreciate that there are situations where people have to wait for their insurance before they can settle their account.

Unfortunately this often incurs interest charges as insurance companies are taking longer to settle. We are considered a third party to your insurance – it is down to you as the policy holder to deal with the insurance company directly.

In the small print of some insurance policies, if a veterinary practice provides a discount i.e. 5% for payment at the time (see above), then they reserve the right to deduct this discount from the claim settlement. This is becoming more common as the insurance industry tighten their belts.

TALK ABOUT CUSHINGS

“Talk About Cushing’s” is a national initiative to improve awareness and understanding of PPID in horses and ponies (Equine Cushing’s Disease). This is a campaign run in combination with Boehringer Ingelheim Vetmedica, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, World Horse Welfare & the British Horse Society.

This time of year is often a time of year that traditionally veterinarians tested for Cushing’s disease, as those horses that are suffering have very high levels of ACTH, which we use to diagnose the disease on blood sampling. The difference between a Cushing’s affected horse and a normal horse is larger, meaning that less false positive results are seen. In recent times, however, the reference range used for blood sampling has been adjusted for the time of year, allowing more accurate sampling to be performed year round.

This current campaign offers a £15.00 voucher to be redeemed if blood results are sent in by your veterinary clinic. The Arundel Equine Hospital is happy to take your vouchers and credit the £15.00 back to you. The vouchers can be printed off by entering the website www.talkaboutcushings.co.uk. A great deal of information can also be found about the disease and related diseases on this website. If you do not have access to the internet the Arundel Equine Hospital will arrange to enter your details and obtain a voucher on your behalf. If you have recently had a Cushing’s test on your horse, contact the clinic as a voucher may still be able to be sent off.

Horses which are suffering from PPID can show a wide range of clinical signs, which are caused by abnormally high circulating levels of certain hormones, such as:

Development of an abnormal hair coat

1. Abnormal fat distribution – including abnormal fat bulging above the eyes (“supraorbital fat”)
2. Excessive sweating
3. Increased appetite
4. Increased drinking and urination
5. Lethargy/ poor performance
6. Repeating episodes of laminitis
7. Recurring infections (e.g. sinusitis)
8. Loss of muscle condition, and/or a pot bellied appearance

If you are worried that your horse may be suffering from Cushing’s disease, please do not hesitate to contact the clinic at any stage.

STAFF Announcements (Vets)



Gemma Kirk

Gemma joins the Arundel Equine Hospital to fill the position of the Intern. She is originally from Leicestershire, and studied at the Royal Veterinary College in London. After graduation in 2008 she spent two and a half years in South Yorkshire as a 100% equine ambulatory veterinarian. You are likely to meet ‘Bobs’ as she is known, if you have a horse as an inpatient in the hospital.



Camilla Strang

Camilla Strang has now completed the 2010/2011 internship at the Arundel Equine Hospital. She has temporarily left to go and travel for 6 weeks through Thailand and Vietnam, and returns refreshed to take up a position in the south of the practice in November 2011.

POISONING

Acorn poisoning in Horses

This year has been a bumper season for oak trees, and subsequently large amounts of acorns are being produced in the area. There have been concerns to the importance of acorn poisoning and the likely signs to be observed if your horse does ingest these acorns. The following should help to provide more information.

Acorns, as well as the leaves and bark of oak trees contain an acidic chemical known as tannin. This has a bitter taste and has properties which contract tissue and draw out fluid. It can cause liver and kidney damage and interferes with the utilisation of protein.

Green unripe acorns contain the highest level of tannin, and as acorns sit on the ground the tannin is leached out of the acorn and it therefore becomes less of a potential risk to horses. Poisoning is rare in horses due to the bitter taste of acorns and the horse's preference to eat other forms of feed. Some horses however will develop a taste for acorns and may preferentially seek them out. It is these horses that may be at risk, and it is necessary to remove them from paddocks that contain oak trees, or to pick up acorns once or twice daily or to have these areas fenced off to prevent access. Foals are also more likely to suffer as they require a lower dose of tannin to induce toxicity due to their lower body weight.

If your horse does ingest large amounts of acorns the following are signs to watch out for that may suggest toxicity is occurring:

1. Loss of appetite
2. Excessive salivation
3. Blood in the urine or faeces
4. Colic/Abdominal pain
5. Elevated temperature
6. Pale mucous membranes
7. Watery eyes
8. Depression
9. Diarrhoea
10. Mouth ulcers

There is no antidote for acorn poisoning; the only thing that the veterinarian can provide is pain relief and supportive care. Fluids may be administered to help prevent the kidneys from failing, and pain relief may help relieve abdominal pain. Of course removing the horse from the pasture must be the first management step undertaken.

Acorn poisoning is rare, but when encountered can be fatal, so it is imperative to prevent this problem, rather than wait to treat it.

Novel treatment for Equine Recurrent Uveitis

Equine Recurrent Uveitis (ERU) is the most common cause of blindness in the horse, and is a condition that can be difficult to manage with currently available medical treatment.

A previous veterinarian at the Arundel Equine Hospital Brian Pattison BVM&S, Cert VOphtal, MRCVS has set up a referral service. Brian left the practice to do a residency in ophthalmology at Glasgow University and is offering implantation of cyclosporine into the eye for treatment of ERU. The early results have been encouraging - please ask your veterinary surgeon if your horse is a suitable candidate for this treatment.

STAFF Annoucements (Office)

Kate Cross



Kate has recently joined the Arundel Equine Hospital team, and you may come across her when phoning up to make an appointment. She has had horses for nearly 20 years and at the moment owns an ex racehorse. She competed in mounted games for 12 years riding for Powys, Sussex and England and also the world championships in Canada, Gothenborg Horse Show and the Oslo Horse Show. Kate is married to husband Paul and together they have a one year old daughter, and there is another little addition due on the 31st of January.

Amy Froggatt

Amy joins us at the Arundel Equine Hospital after having worked for a property developers as a secretary/receptionist. She then moved to the accounts department and studied her AAT foundation level (NVQ level 2) at night school. After this she worked for a local plant wholesaler in the accounts department. Amy has had horses all of her life and owns an ex racehorse, her latest project. She is in her element at the clinic as she is able to spend all day talking about horses.

