

St David's Equine Practice

NEWSLETTER

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PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

The supply of Relevant Veterinary Medicinal Products Order came into force on 31st October 2005 and implemented recommendations from the Competition Commission. One provision was that veterinary surgeons were not to charge clients for providing a prescription if they wished to purchase required veterinary medicines from a pharmacy or online pharmacy. This has now been lifted and we may now make a reasonable charge for written prescriptions for POM-V medicines issued for animals under our care following our clinical assessment. We cannot discriminate between clients who are supplied with a prescription and those who are not in relation to fees charged for other goods or services. From November 1st 2008 we will charge £15 + VAT for a written prescription.

NEW WEBSITE

We're really pleased to announce the arrival of our new website which can be found at www.stdavids-equine.co.uk. The new website is packed full of information about the practice including the services we provide to our clients. All the back copies of the newsletter can be found on the website so if you miss an issue you can read it online. If you would like to receive the newsletter by e-mail every two months please send an e-mail to alison@stdavids-vets.co.uk with 'newsletter' as the subject.

MOBILE PHONE NUMBERS

We often need to get hold of our clients at short notice to inform them of laboratory results or to let them know that a vet has been called to an emergency and is going to be late. We don't have mobile phone numbers for lots of our clients and we also have lots of out of date numbers! It would be so helpful if you could let us have your mobile numbers and it would obviously benefit you if we do need to contact you. You could either phone the practice to let us have the number or e-mail it to claire@stdavids-vets.co.uk. Thank you for your help with this matter!

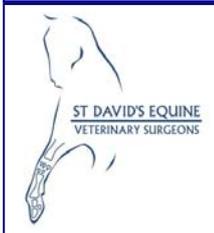
THE NEWSLETTER RETURNS!

A few of you (hopefully) may have noticed that the practice newsletter has been conspicuous by its absence for much of 2008! It's my fault I'm afraid—I discovered that tiny babies are actually quite a lot of work and



I've had a lovely year spending lots of time with my baby Leo who was born in January. Well I'm now back in the Editor's chair but not back as a vet for the time being. Hopefully I will return in my veterinary capacity at some point in the future but for now I'm enjoying being a mum. If you have any queries regarding the newsletter or would like to see an article on a particular subject, do please let me know. My e-mail address is alison@stdavids-vets.co.uk. Thank you to all the clients who sent their best wishes!

Alison Reed



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SPONSORED RIDER UPDATE

PAULA LEE

King Solomon III

King Solomon is now 20 years young! Dear Solly is still fit, well and very sound. Tony (Kaye) even makes me lunge him on the hard every now and again under his watchful eye just to make sure he is as fit and well as I think he is! This I always dread but Solly always passes with flying colours; an amazing feat in itself, I know many younger horses that wouldn't pass that test!

Horse & Hound.

We had the most amazing time when Lucinda Green came down to do an article on Solly for the Horse & Hound (31st January 2008 issue). She is such a lovely lady and it was a real honour to meet her. She knew Solly from his eventing days and was very interested to hear all about his career change. She really couldn't get over how he has bulked up, especially his "Apple shaped bottom" as she put it! She was very thorough in her assessment, firstly scrutinising his conformation then trotting him up on the hard, then she rode him on the flat and over some jumps. She was here all day and even had a guided tour around the practice from Bob Barker. She was extremely impressed by the whole set up, especially the listed grade 2* indoor arena! And Solly made it on to the front cover!

The Winter B.D. Semi Finals 2008.

This took place at Kingston Maurward College, Dorchester. Solly competed in 3 classes over 2 days. The Medium Freestyle, Medium Open and Advanced Medium Freestyle. We had a great couple of days ending up 8th in the Medium Freestyle with a brilliant 68.91% and 10th in the Medium Open. On the strength of our percentage in the Medium Freestyle we were awarded a Wild Card through to the Championships at Hartpury.

Hartpury - Winter Championships 2008.

What an amazing venue! We competed in the outdoor arena in our first test, in the Petplan Advanced Medium Restricted Championships and came 5th. He did a lovely test but two late changes knocked our score down. We then went on to do the Medium Freestyle in the indoor arena. My trainer Sarah had come up to help me and Solly worked in well but started to feel a bit tired so we backed off him a bit and took it easy. I think he was pulling our legs because when we went through the archway into the main arena he lit up like a firework! The atmosphere was amazing and Solly always seems to draw a bit of crowd. Solly set off down the centre line at speed and we didn't seem to slow down! He got very strong and a bit on the forehand but he was really enjoying himself and I felt like a bit of a passenger! He still finished with above 65 percent but not in the placings, but that really didn't matter it was great to be there in that company and we both really enjoyed it!

Summer Regional Championships 2008

The venue was Kingston Maurward again, a favourite of mine. Solly was feeling better than ever, we had two classes to contest. The Medium Open – a notoriously hot class and the Advanced Medium Restricted. Sarah was again there to help me and it made such a difference just having that extra input. Solly was round and soft and really coming through from behind. We went in and did a foot perfect Medium test, I kept thinking as I was going along "they've got to give us the marks for this" sometimes the more flamboyant moving horses seem to get favoured. But the judges obviously liked it and we ended up on 66.49 to finish in 7th place with the winner on 67.75 so we were all very close. We then had a tight turn around from the Medium Open prize giving to my next class, not that I thought this would be a problem as Solly has done his fair share of prize givings and is always very well behaved. Solly obviously had other ideas and when they all went off to do the lap of honour he joined in the fun and games! I then didn't really get him fully focused after that and when he went in to the Advanced Medium he was still cantering around his prize giving – in his head! We came to do our rein back and – no he just stood there! I asked again – nothing, then he shot sideways hit the white board, threw his head in the air and walked off! Hmm. So I just carried on and tried to shut that part of the test from my mind, we had some nice canter work but a bit too much tension to get all of our changes through and had two late ones. Even with all that he came in 10th and got to do another prize giving – by then he decided they weren't quite so exciting!

Home International

We recently were selected to ride for the South West Region for England as an individual at Advanced Medium level. We had an awful build up to the competition, with Solly having a very sore back due to the tree in my saddle giving up the ghost. It just shows the importance of checking your saddle thoroughly and regularly! Janet Legg came immediately and confirmed the problem that Tony Kaye had picked up on. Janet fitted him with a new saddle and Clare McDonald came and sorted his back. I felt awful that I had caused him such a sore back. He had a week off and then came back into work a week before the big event!

It was run as an International so all the horses had to go through an official trot up, which Solly passed with flying colours. It was held up at The Hand EC a most impressive venue. We were up there for three days, with the trot up on the first, a test on the second and a Kur on the third.

I got up early on the first day to do the arena walk at 6.30am, so as I could get acclimatised to the arena (not normally a problem with Solly). We then had to wait till the end of the day to do our test, Solly felt good and worked in well,

though he was quite strong. We went in to the arena and the minute we went through the doors I knew Solly was on a mission! We had to enter in collected canter and we hadn't even made it in to the arena before he was on his back legs! We went on to do the the test with six other airs above ground.....his marks ranged from 1's to 8's. I just had to laugh he was having a ball, even the judges were laughing and one said she thought he was going around Badminton! I had done the thing we're all told not to do, I had upped his feed the week before because I thought he might be lacking a bit of oomph! Hmmm. I should have thought about it more as he had had time off, had his food increased and was in a lovely saddle that he could really move in again!

Next day after very little sleep worrying about it all happening again, I got up early again to arena walk, worked him in for 20 mins then, and then got on him 50 mins before his test. He felt brilliant but still quite bright. This time it was a Kur test and my music is very up beat. We seemed to have quite a big audience, with most people hearing how naughty he had been the day before and had come to see the fun! Anyway he did a good test and only stood up once! We finished on a 66.58 and 12th which I was really pleased with considering our rear was in the middle of a compulsory movement which got us 3's from both judges and a jog in the walk also cost us. Lots of people came up to me to say how great it was to see him competing and to see him obviously enjoying himself so much!!

It was disappointing but as Mary always says horses are a great leveller and even the best behaved horses have their day!

Due to this I felt I had better get him out asap to make sure he had got his naughtiness out of his system. We went up to Kingston Maurward where Solly still had a twinkle in his eye and did try to have a little rear but came second in the Advanced Medium. We then went on to do an Advanced test and he was brilliant, he did a lovely test and certainly laid any ghosts to rest by winning in style. It was probably one of the best test we had done, which is just great at his age. It was great fun to have a go at Advanced level, everything seemed to come up so fast and I had a slight counting problem with my four time changes but it was a wonderful experience. This is our second time at Advanced and he has won both times! What a star.

Future

Solly has already qualified for the Winter Regionals, Medium and Advanced Medium Freestyles but I will go out to try and qualify him for the Advanced Medium Restricted and then we will have a play at some more Advanced. We are off to Carl Hester's for a lesson soon as I have been going up to his yard regularly to watch training sessions. I'm quite nervous but very excited about that. It will be interesting to see what Carl thinks of him now, as he gave Mary a few lessons on him and was at Athens with them. He certainly doesn't feel like he wants to retire yet!

My Other Horses

Marco



That really didn't leave much time for my others but I have a very beautiful and exciting addition to the yard in the shape of Marco. A friend of mine told me about him as he was looking for a new home under very sad circumstances. He is owned by a lovely lady called Rosemary Hayward who no longer wanted to ride. Marco had been turned away for a considerable time then had been brought back into work where his rider had a very nasty accident.

I went to try him and although seriously lacking suppleness and fitness I fell for him. I have been very carefully bringing him back to fitness and he is WOW! We have done a few affiliated competitions and have had very mixed results from mega marks to very bad! He still is quite insecure but I'm sure it will come as we build up our partnership.

Iggy

Iggy is still keeping Tony (Kaye) in work as he works his way through a catalogue of reasons why he has to have time off! I think I should have called him 'sick note'. He is back on the road now and should be out competing soon, but I'm not telling him that!



Buzz



Buzz my youngster that I bred has returned! After being sold he had an unfortunate accident and came back here for rehab. All is going well and he is fully rehabilitated. He has now gone off to do some Parelli with James Roberts in Wilts, to sort his mind out and I am amazed by the results! He will stay up there for another couple of weeks, then I will have to make the decision whether to sell or keep him as I do have a bit of a soft spot for him!

Jim

Jim my retired dressage horse has returned from college with a cracked tooth and has had to have some time off but is now fit and well and has got a loving home with a friend of mine.

Ricky

Ricky is the very newest edition and is causing a real stir in the yard, he's getting more visitors than Solly! He is a 32" miniature Shetland who is on loan for my daughter to ride and he's very cute!

Sarah Cheetham

Sarah has been my trainer and friend for 8 years now and has really helped me and my horses, all of which are very different. She is now a list 4 judge and is available for training here at Nutwell. To find out more you can contact Sarah at www.dressage.me.uk

NEW MICROCHIPPING REGULATIONS

Consultation is currently being undertaken by Defra on new EU regulations regarding the microchipping of foals. The new regulations state that all foals born after the 1st July 2009 are to be microchipped as well as having a passport.

It has been compulsory for all thoroughbred foals to be microchipped since 1999 and it is felt by many that extending these regulations to cover all horses, ponies, donkeys and mules is long overdue. Older horses will not have to be microchipped as long as they already have a valid passport when the new regulations come into force. If your horse does not have a valid passport by 1st July 2009 then you will have to have a microchip inserted at the same time as applying for a passport. Horses cannot be sold, exported, slaughtered for human consumption, used for competition or breeding without a valid passport. Foals are to be microchipped before the 31st December of the year of birth or before they reach 6 months of age—whichever is longest.

Hopefully the new regulations will eventually result in an end to disputes over age, ownership disputes, help with the return of lost and stolen horses (it is nigh on impossible to remove a microchip without causing considerable damage to the horse) and also help to identify and possibly prosecute owners in cases of neglect and abandonment. With the possible (some might argue probable) emergence in the future of diseases new to the UK such as African Horse Sickness, microchips may play an important role in disease surveillance and control.

It is expected that microchips are to be inserted by veterinary surgeons at the same time as the identification part of the passport application is filled in and therefore will not require an extra visit.

Microchips are inserted into the nuchal ligament (at the crest) half way down the neck on the left hand side. This placement ensures that there is very little chance of the microchip migrating which can be a problem in other species. Microchips have been around for many years now and are proven to be a reliable method of identification.

It is likely that exemptions will be put into place for the ponies on Dartmoor and in the New Forest as currently exist with the passport system.

The new regulations are currently in the consultation process to which anyone can contribute. The new EU regulations do allow for member states to approve alternative methods to the microchip. If you would like to contribute to this consultation, please visit the consultations section of the Defra website (www.defra.gov.uk). The consultation closes at noon on 2nd February 2009 with Defra expected to release a summary twelve weeks after this.



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