

KESSOCK



EQUINE VETS

Kessock Equine Vets Winter Newsletter 2020

Welcome to the Winter Edition of the Kessock Equine Vets' newsletter! What a year it has been for everyone and we are thankful for both our clients' patience and support throughout this pandemic. Of course, we are continuing to follow the advice of the Scottish Government and the Royal College of Veterinary surgeons. This includes social distancing measures to help protect the health of both our clients and staff. We are grateful for our clients' continued understanding as we try to ensure that all their horses are given first class treatment, despite the restrictions. Our staff are all here to support our clients and their horses, so please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries or concerns you may have. We are here to help!

We hope you find his latest newsletter interesting and it is certainly packed with information. The newsletter contains advice, offers, staff updates, Festive opening hours and a competition. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as we have enjoyed putting it together. Incidentally if you would like to contribute something to our next newsletter then please get in touch – info@kessockequinevets.co.uk or 01463 731107 – we would love to feature some articles from our clients.

Finally, we wish you all the best for the coming Festive season and hope that you celebrate it in the best way you can.

Christmas and New Year Hours

With the Festive season fast approaching, please see our opening hours below:-

- Christmas Eve – 9am to 1pm
- Christmas Day – Closed
- Monday 28th December – Closed
- Tuesday 29th December – 9am to 5pm
- Wednesday 30th December – 9am to 5pm
- Hogmanay – 9am to 1pm
- New Year's Day – Closed
- Monday 4th January – Closed



We will of course be offering a full 24 hour emergency service outwith these times.

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Visiting Referrals:

We have been extremely fortunate to welcome a range of visiting consultants and clinicians to come and assess advanced cases in a socially-distanced manner. This has been a huge benefit to both our clients, who's horses, ponies and donkeys have been able to receive specialist treatment without having to leave the Highlands, as well as to our vets who are able to learn from these specialists. Our regular visiting specialists include Graham Hunter, who is the Equine Advisor for Independent Vet Care, and Nicole du Toit and Sam Baker who are part of the Equine Dental Clinic team.

Graham regularly attends the clinic to see advanced lameness cases, using the Equinosis Lameness Locator system along with our diagnostic imaging equipment and treatment facilities. With his extensive experience and expertise, Graham provides a first class approach to diagnosing and treating a range of lameness issues, as well as being a consultant for surgery cases. Nicole and Sam from the Equine Dental Clinic make the trip up to Kessock every couple of months to carry out referral level dental investigations and treatments. These include tooth removals, fillings and sinus surgeries on everything from Shetlands to Clydesdales! We often have horses coming from all across the Highlands and even further afield to be seen by Nicole and Sam. If you feel that your horse, pony or donkey may benefit from being seen by either Graham, or the Equine Dental Clinic team, then please get in touch with the practice or speak to one of our vets.



We are very appreciative for all of these specialists who take the time to ensure we can provide the best possible care to the horses, ponies and donkeys here in the Scottish Highlands.

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If you book in four or more horses, ponies or donkeys for routine treatments, such as vaccinations or dental exams, then the visit charge is free! If you don't keep your horse on a yard, or have less than 4, then we can fit you in to one of our area visits, reducing the visit charge by 70%. For more information about these visits, please call the practice.



**Remember our yard visit offer,
of four or more for free!**

**Winter
Fitness Offer**

Are you struggling to keep your horse or pony fit during the winter months, with the wet ground and decreasing daylight hours? Here at Kessock Equine Vets we've come up with a handy solution!

During the months of December through to February, if you bring your horse or pony into the clinic for any routine treatment, we are offering free use of our 20m x 40m all weather arena! Routine treatments include dental examinations, vaccinations and health checks; furthermore, we will also throw in free use of our weighbridge! This is part of our commitment to keeping your horses and ponies active, healthy and happy all year round. For more details, along with further terms and conditions, please give the practice a call on 014637 31107

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Join our Healthy Horse Club

In these uncertain times we are finding that our Healthy Horse Club plan is becoming increasingly popular. The Healthy Horse Club allows our clients to budget for preventative healthcare for their horses with a monthly payment plan. At current prices the Healthy Horse Club plan will save you around £45 per year on routine treatments!

For more information, have a look at our website page - kessockequinevets.co.uk/healthy-horse-club



Winter Dental Offer

We would like to introduce our all inclusive dental offer which will be running over the winter months of December through to February. The package includes a comprehensive dental investigation, routine treatment and sedation, with the total cost of this offer being just £70 per horse, saving on average around £15 per treatment. The package does not include a visit cost, however if you book onto the Winter Dental Offer as part of a yard visit, or bring your horse, pony or donkey into the clinic then the visit cost is free!



To book your horse, pony or donkey's next dental, or for more information, please call the practice on 01463 731107.

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Taking care of the elderly Horse, Pony or Donkey during the Winter

As we progress through the winter and the snow, frost, sleet and mud continues to make an appearance, it is important to take extra care with our more elderly equine friends. Winter is often a time where we begin to see some of our elderly horses, ponies or donkeys start to stiffen up or lose a little weight due to the grass losing its goodness or as they begin to spend longer inside. We often have conversations with owners who are rightfully concerned about their elderly horse approaching winter, and our vets are always on hand to make an appropriate care plan for all horses. If you have an elderly equine friend, here are a few key things to have a think about as we make it through the darker days and colder temperatures:

Is your horse able to eat happily, able to chew their grass, hay or feed and is maintaining an appropriate weight?

- Older horses often look great and eat with ease during the Spring and Summer months, but come the winter they sometimes struggle with an increase in hay, haylage and hard feed. It is important that they are able to mechanically digest their food, which starts with their teeth. Having regular dental checks can ensure that their mouth is functioning as best as it can and often having an extra dental examination during the winter can help to keep this going. If your horse begins to drop weight or have a reduced fat covering, it may be worth ringing the vets to have a phone conversation with one of our team.

Is your horse able to walk freely and comfortably to their field, have a little trot, graze, lay down and get up again with relative ease?

- These are key aspects to equine behaviour that are part of all horses, ponies and donkeys' natural instincts and abilities. If your horse is unable to move around freely, this could be a sign of pain which may be affecting their quality of life so it is important to consider this and involve a vet in a conversation about this.

Is your horse showing signs of stiffness, uncontrolled lameness or difficulty rolling?

- If they are, this could be a sign of joint pain or arthritis, which older horses can struggle with more so in the winter when they stand still for longer periods or are ridden less frequently. Joint pain and arthritis can be minimised with pain relief and management, which can be tailored to suit individual situations.

Is your horse on any long term medication, such as Danilon, Bute or Prascend?

- If so, now is the time to check that they are on the correct dosage and that it is still treating them as required. For some medications, such as prascend, this can be achieved through a thorough clinical examination as well as a routine blood sample. If your horse has been on danilon or bute for a prolonged period, it may also be beneficial to have a routine blood screen performed to check that your horse, pony or donkey's internal organs are all functioning correctly.

Above all, it is important to keep your beloved horse, pony or donkey healthy and happy through all the months of the year, to always see a glimmer in their eye and feel that they are enjoying life. Sometimes, where this isn't the case, heart-breaking decisions do have to be made for the kindest of reasons. Here at Kessock Equine Vets, we will always be here to support you and your horse, pony or donkey until the last step of the journey.

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Skye Visit

At the end of August, our vet Dan made the beautiful trip out to Skye to see some of our more remote clients. Dan had a busy few days carrying out dental examinations, health checks and vaccinations in some spectacularly scenic locations! There was a full array of patients, Shetlands to Exmoors, and Highlands to Fresians; it is always a pleasure to treat the horses in the Highlands. Our next visit to Skye will be early on in the New Year, so if you would like to book an appointment for routine treatments, second opinions or initial investigations then please get in touch with the practice. Dan is looking forward to the next trip which will be during the week commencing 15th March 2021.

12 days of Christmas Giveaway!

Keep an eye on our Facebook page from the 12th December to 23rd December inclusive for details of our 12 days of Christmas Giveaway! Each day we will be putting on a photo of our new mascot Socks and asking you to guess where he is, a prize will be sent to the person who gives the closest answer. Good luck!



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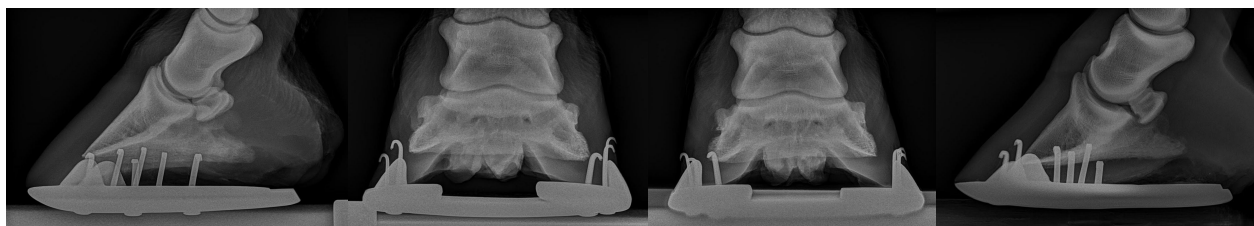
Healthy Start to a New Year

As we approach 2021, we are hopeful that the New Year brings a healthier year to all of our clients and your equine friends! At Kessock Equine Vets, we have put together a '*Healthy Start*' package to ensure that your horse, pony or donkey has the best possible start that they can in the New Year. Running at our purpose built clinic from January through to March, the '*Healthy Start*' package will include the following:

- A full set of hoof X-rays, which will be placed onto a USB stick, enabling you to share the findings with your farrier or trimmer
- An in-house routine blood profile, checking your horse, pony or donkey's internal organ functions and assessing for any potential underlying conditions.
- A full clinical exam and health check, including a walk and trot-up to assess for soundness.
- Use of the weighbridge, with a weight chart added to your USB stick.



All of these components are included in the '*Healthy Start*' package for just £150, excluding any sedation required. We can also offer a less comprehensive '*Healthy Start*' package which includes the **in-house blood profile, health check and use of the weighbridge** for a reduced price of £75. In addition to this, we will also offer **10% off of any of our supplements, or any further treatments** that are booked or purchased on the day. For further details, or to book your horse, pony or donkey in, please call 01463 731107 to speak to a member of our team.



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Meet the Team

We would like to introduce you to some new members of our team at Kessock Equine Vets.



Natalia Dziekan-Wisniewska DVM MRCVS graduated from Olsztyn, Poland in 2014 before working as a small animal vet for two years in Poland then as an intern at Dubai Equine Hospital. For the last 2 years she has been working in a equine clinic-based ambulatory practice near Manchester. Natalia is particularly interested in Stud Medicine and Internal Medicine and has started the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons Advanced Practitioner Certificate in Internal Medicine.

In her free time, Natalia enjoys hiking with her husband, two Miniature Dachshunds - Joy and Cama (who also come with her to work), and a rescued cat Kurwica that came from Dubai. She hopes to do some Dressage and Eventing with her Arab/Friesian mare Negra.



Sara recently joined Kessock Equine Vets as a member of the stable staff team. Her passion for horses started at a very young age; owning and working with horses has allowed her to gain a lot of experience and valuable knowledge.

Working at Kessock Equine practice has increased her interest in providing a great service for our customers and making a change for the better for our patients.

Rebekah graduated from The Royal Veterinary College in 2019 and worked as an equine vet in Cornwall before joining Kessock Equine Vets in December.

During her studies she spent time in different equine hospitals, namely as an extern for a month in Rosssdales in Newmarket, and then Rood and Riddle Equine hospital in Kentucky, she is interested in all aspects of veterinary but particularly in geriatric horse care and performance investigations.

Outside of work she enjoys keeping active by horse riding, playing Rugby and is looking forward to exploring the stunning countryside the Highlands has to offer, whether that be on foot or by kayak, often with her camera in hand! She is also a keen baker.

