

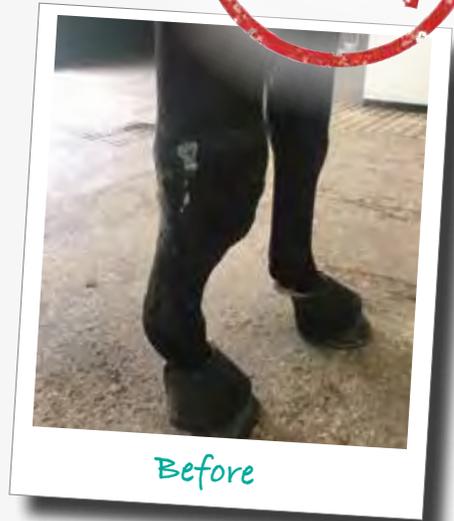
Find out more
about summer
turn out health
issues, tape
worm testing
and more!

SUMMER 2018

Newsletter

Knee Hygroma

'Dan' had an unfortunate incident where he caused significant trauma to the front of his knee. This developed into an infection and incredibly large swelling, which was treated with antibiotics and bandaging. Over time the generalised swelling of his leg reduced and a large fluid pocket remained on the front of the knee. This is called a 'hygroma' and in Dan's case was filled with infected fluid.



Before



After

The fluid was drained with a needle and antibiotics flushed directly into the hygroma, but unfortunately the fluid quickly returned. A large drain was therefore placed which allowed constant drainage of the fluid into the bandage. With a lot of TLC from our clinic nursing team and then by Dan's owners on his return home, he has been able to make a full recovery and is back in ridden work. Well done Dan!

Tapeworm testing

The EquiSal Tapeworm Test works like a blood test but, instead, uses saliva that you collect yourself. The test is scientifically proven to diagnose tapeworm burdens with high accuracy – it tells you if your horse has a burden and whether you need to worm or not.

To test for tapeworm, all you need to do is collect saliva from your horse using a specially designed swab and return to the practice. Tapeworm testing now forms part of our Annual Worming Programme, reducing the need for wormers, the use of which contributes to wormer resistance.

www.oakhill-vets.com/annual-worming-programme/



The trouble with grass...

We are all breathing a sigh of relief that the wet winter appears to be over and celebrating getting into competition season or enjoying a summer evening hack. What we mustn't forget is the effect the weather can have on the grass and the potential impact this could have on your horse's health.

Although it may seem like a treat to allow your horse unlimited access to fresh grass after winter (on a predominantly dry forage diet), this leads to an increased incidence of spasmodic colic at this time of year. You can reduce the chance of your horse suffering from this by gradually increasing the amount of grass available (strip grazing) or the time for which your horse is turned out.

Grass almost always causes an increase in your horse's weight. Excess fat leads to abnormal metabolism of sugar due to insulin resistance, similar to Type II diabetes in humans. In horses this is called Equine Metabolic Syndrome and is the most common cause of laminitis. Grazing muzzles are an excellent method of limiting grass intake (to approx 25%) allowing your horse to be turned out for long periods of time which promotes natural trickle feeding and prevents boredom or stress. If your horse is continuing to receive dry forage or hard feed, reduction of the ration will be required to maintain a stable body weight. Soaking hay for 6-8 hours reduces the sugar, and therefore calories without reducing the amount fed, so is a common recommendation that our vets make.

Regular monitoring of your horse's weight (either by weigh tape or scales if available) and Body Condition Scoring is essential to identify early weight gain and complement feed restrictions. The weigh bridge at Oakhill can be used by clients free of charge, by appointment.



Equine Metabolic Syndrome (insulin resistance) or Cushing's disease (PPID) can predispose a horse to laminitis. Both conditions can be tested for with simple blood tests allowing these conditions to be diagnosed, managed and treated before they result in laminitis.

We are currently offering free lab fees for ACTH testing (Cushing's disease) - see below.

If you are concerned about your horse, please contact the practice.



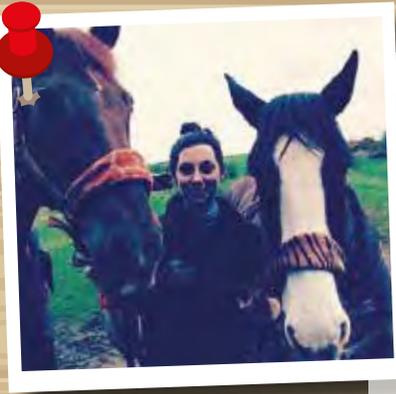
In 2017, thousands of laminitic patients benefited from PPID being ruled in or out of their condition during the Talk About Laminitis campaign, as a result, the campaign will continue offering

FREE* ACTH TESTING THROUGHOUT 2018

You can claim your complimentary testing vouchers by visiting www.talkaboutlaminitis.co.uk

Terms & Conditions: ACTH test voucher code is for the laboratory fees for a blood ACTH test only. Each voucher is only redeemable against an ACTH blood test where the patient has not been previously diagnosed with PPID and is not valid for repeat testing or case monitoring. Oakhill blood sampling fee, visit fee and postage still apply. See website for further details.

Meet the team



Clare Smith

Clare joined Oakhill at the beginning of August 2017 as an Equine Nursing Assistant and Lab Technician.

After gaining a BSc (Hons) in Equine Science, Clare has always worked with horses. Prior to joining Oakhill, Clare worked as a Saddle Fitter for 8 years (and is MSFC qualified). She's also been a riding instructor, dressage and stud groom and a test-pilot for a horse dealer.

Clare has 2 horses, Fergal and Eric, so in her spare time enjoys riding, dressage and jumping.

She also has a dog called Rex and lives on a dairy farm, so helps out there when she's not at Oakhill or riding her horses.



Becka Brown...

It's now official that Becka Brown is a fully qualified and Registered Veterinary Nurse. Well done Becka - a fantastic achievement



Hattie Barnes...

Hattie has passed her Certificate of advanced veterinary practice in equine soft tissue surgery after studying for 2 years (as well as working as an Equine Vet).

Watch out for exciting developments.....

There continues to be exciting developments at our Goosnargh site. We now have a new stable block providing 7 extra stables (in addition to the existing 9), with more to follow.

We also have a new car parking facility allowing staff vehicles to park away from the front of the building, providing more space for parking and turning horse boxes/trailers in this area and around the MRI facility.

These are the first of many developments which will provide further enhancements, including dedicated small and large animal reception areas.

We hope that the work will make visiting our Equine Clinic a great experience for all. We'd like to thank our visiting clients for their cooperation during the building work.



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