



Find out about...
Diastemata, Worm
Control Plans,
Weight Clinics
and more!

WINTER 2018/2019

Newsletter

DIASTEMATA

The 24 cheek teeth are designed to grind forage for up to 16 hours a day. These teeth erupt and are ground down continuously and those in each quadrant of the mouth act as a single grinding surface without spaces.

A diastema (plural, diastemata) is defined as a gap between teeth. Diastemata in the normally tightly fitting cheek teeth results in food entrapment. The stagnant food leads to painful periodontal disease (inflammation of the gums). If left untreated this can lead to the loosening of teeth, tooth root infections, sinusitis or food tracking up into the nose.

40-50%
of horses suffer from diastemata. They are most common in older horses. It's our most commonly treated dental disease.

Diastemata can result for many reasons:

- With older age, teeth have erupted to the level of the slightly narrower root portion of the tooth.
- Displaced (out of line) or rotated teeth- both are developmental defects, more common in breeds with small or dished faces e.g. miniatures.
- Teeth drifting apart, towards the space remaining following a tooth extraction.
- The teeth have erupted with diastemata between them, perhaps because the horse had grown bigger than the relative size of its teeth or erupted with out angulation.
- Caries (decay) of the teeth which rots tooth away creating diastemata between them.

Periodontal disease is very painful and horses often present with quidding (dropping of balls of hay). Some horses 'pull faces'. Subtle signs e.g. eating less or weight loss are often attributed to old age. Symptoms are commonly seen during winter as long forage is more likely to become trapped between teeth than grass.

Diastemata are diagnosed at a routine oral exam, recommended every 6-12 months. To perform a thorough examination, a headtorch and mirror is essential; diastemata can be easily missed. Sedation is useful for fidgeting horses.

Treatment is carried out using sedation, pain relief and local anaesthetic in our clinic and involves removal of trapped food with the guidance of the oral endoscope camera that can view into the deepest pockets. Widening of diastemata is sometimes required to release entrapped food. The cleaned deeper pockets are sometimes packed with a protective putty whilst the gum heals beneath. Tooth overgrowths are floated (reduced) using powertools in order to balance the pressures on the teeth, reducing tooth drift. Severe cases may require tooth extractions.

Following a course of thoroughly performed treatment, the prognosis for resolution is very good especially with early diagnosis and action.



Food entrapment



Widened pockets cleaned



Protective Putty

WORM CONTROL PLAN

Responsible use of wormers is hugely important to help prevent the development of resistance. Our year round Worm Control Plan includes faecal worm egg counts and Equisal tapeworm testing which play a vital part by providing information about your horse's worm burden. Should your horse have a positive result, wormers are included in the plan.

Our easy-to-follow Worm Control Plan covers ALL worms that may affect your horse and it can be started at any time of year.

The Worm Control Plan is included in some of our Equine Care Plans! Ask us for details.

2019 Annual Worm Control Plan

1 x under 13.00hh (under 300kg)	Size Code S	£52.00
2 x under 13.00hh (both under 300kg)	Size Code 2	£89.00
1 x under 16.00hh (301kg - 575kg)	Size Code M	£75.00
1 x over 16.00hh (over 575kg)	Size Code L	£91.00

To order your 2019 Worm Control Plan, please call our Equine Team on 01772 861300

WEIGHT CLINICS

Knowing the weight of your horse/pony is essential for facilitating accurate worming.

During an Oakhill Weight Clinic your horse will be weighed, body condition scored and you'll be given weight and nutritional advice specific to your horse, by our experienced Equine Vet.

Call 01772 861300 to book a Weight Clinic for your yard.

Obesity is the biggest issue facing UK equines today.

£10 per horse
(when pre-booked)

£15 per horse
(not pre booked)

NO VISIT FEE!

Minimum of 5 horses, otherwise visit fees will apply.

Meet the team

Kim Davies - BVSc MRCVS

We'd like to welcome Kim Davies to the Oakhill Equine Vet Team.

Kim graduated from Liverpool University in 2014 and worked in small animal and equine practice before going back to Liverpool to complete an equine internship.

Although she loves all aspects of equine work, Kim has a passion for internal medicine including ophthalmology, neurology and dentistry and is currently studying for her certificate in internal medicine.

Outside of work Kim enjoys walking her dog Bella and partaking in anything and everything that involves the great outdoors.



Kim Davies



Let's talk about laminitis



FREE* LAB TEST FEES FOR ACTH (CUSHING'S) ARE BACK!

It is believed that 90% of laminitis cases have an underlying hormonal cause. There are a variety of tests which can be used to investigate whether a horse or pony has one of these hormonal conditions: these include the basal ACTH test for Equine Cushing's disease (PPID).

For more information and to generate your complimentary voucher, please visit:

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. Oakhill blood sampling fee, visit fee and postage still apply. See website for further details.



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WWW.OAKHILL-VETS.COM

We send our clients marketing communications that include reminders for animal vaccinations and healthcare treatments, news information on the practice, animal welfare (such as disease awareness education) events and latest related product offers. If you do not wish to receive these marketing communications please speak to a member of the Oakhill Team (contact details above). We hope that what we send is useful and you will continue to want to hear from us!