



SUMMER/AUTUMN 2026

Event cover and Sponsorship / OvaCyte Worm Egg Count Machine / Acupuncture / Sarcoids / First Aid

Event Cover and Sponsorship

Our vets love nothing more than getting out and about supporting local events. It's a great opportunity to catch up with our clients and their horses.

Our experienced team work with many organisers providing professional veterinary care for a range of disciplines. From local shows, point-to-points, horse trials and championships, we cover a wide area from the West Midlands down to Oxford, the Cotswolds across to Northamptonshire. In July we were the vets responsible for our most local event—the Upton Horse Trials, which take place on the Upton Estate, where our office is based. During August we annually cover the Pony Club Championships at Offchurch, which is always a busy and enjoyable event.

As well as sponsoring our Brand Ambassadors, we also support many local riding clubs and events. It's important for us to support the smaller grassroots clubs and we do this with sponsorship and providing prizes. If you manage a small club in our catchment area, get in touch as we may be able to help.



OvaCyte Worm Egg Count Machine



We recently announced the arrival of our latest piece of technology - the OvaCyte Worm Egg Count Machine.

This machine allows our faecal worm egg counts to be much more precise than the traditional McMaster method. We are always looking for ways to be more sustainable in our use of all medications, especially wormers, and this machine helps us to do just that. All of our worm egg counts are now run using this technology to ensure of the horses under our care get the best care possible.

The nursing team prepare the sample using a salt solution and then load it into a patented disc, which allows the parasite eggs to float to the top and debris and other organic matter falls to the bottom. The machine automatically analyses the solution at the top. An AI algorithm captures images and tags eggs/oocytes based on their size, morphology and shape and decides if there is enough of a certainty to tag the captured image as an egg/oocyte. After analysis, the results are sent back to the machine and the web application for interpretation. The results are then produced in a PDF format and sent to the client via email.

Avonvale 12 month Worming Package

Take a look at our popular yearly worming program which includes a tapeworm test and 4 x worm egg counts. We offer individual horse owner and yard owner packages. Each worming package includes four faecal worm egg counts, one EquiSal tapeworm saliva test, a weigh tape and unlimited up-to-date advice from our knowledgeable equine veterinary surgeons and qualified nurses.

For more information visit our website: <https://www.avonvaleequine.co.uk/our-services/annual-worm-control-package/>

Office Hours

Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5:00pm

Extended Hours available Mon to Wed
for appointments until 8pm

24hr Emergency Service

Contact Us

Avonvale Equine Practice

Tel: 01295 670501

www.avonvaleequine.co.uk



Diagnostic Tools Explained

Have you ever wondered how your vet gets to the root of a problem? From investigating lameness to diagnosing cardiac diseases, we use a range of advanced tools to get you an answer and guide treatment plans for your horse. In this series, we'll take a look at the equipment and techniques we use every day.

Radiography

X-rays are one of the most valuable diagnostic tools. They work by passing a small amount of radiation through the body, with various tissues absorbing the rays to various degrees. The machine then creates detailed images of bones, where we can assess for any abnormalities. We can diagnose conditions such as fractures, arthritis, and laminitis with our x-ray machine. Most commonly used on legs and head.



Ultrasound

Ultrasound is a safe non-invasive imaging technique that uses high-frequency sound waves to create real-time images of soft tissues in the body. Ultrasound allows us to examine structures such as tendons, ligaments, muscles and organs. Although it is best for soft tissues we can sometimes use it to look for fractures/ abnormalities in places such as the shoulder or pelvis- where we are unable to x-ray. We can use it to investigate lameness, examine the abdominal organs during a colic episode, and scan mare's reproductive organs for stud work.

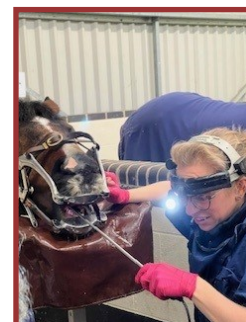


Endoscope

An endoscope is a long flexible camera, that can be passed up the nasal passage into areas such as the airways or stomach. Endoscopy is a common diagnostic tool for respiratory conditions (ie. coughing or nasal discharge) as well as diagnosing gastric ulcers. We use endoscopes of different lengths depending where we are imaging- a shorter endoscope for upper and lower airways, and a longer one (gastroscope) for the stomach. Dynamic endoscopy can also be performed, where the camera is attached to the horse during exercise, to assess how the airway structures move during exercise.

Oroscope

The oroscope is a smaller camera that is used during dental/ oral exams. Whilst the dental gag is in place, the oroscope is moved around the mouth showing us all surfaces of the teeth, as well as tongue, gums and cheeks. It allows us to diagnose dental fractures, caries (cavities), soft tissue injuries and foreign bodies (such as twigs/ thorns).



Laboratory

At Avonvale we have our own in-house laboratory which includes a haematology machine, biochemistry machine, worm egg count machine and various other tools and equipment. After taking a blood sample from your horse we can have the results of the blood tests within a couple of hours. Blood results can show us indicators of infection, inflammation or specific organ diseases.

New Procedure for Prescriptions

We have updated protocol regarding the issuing of prescriptions. Prescriptions can be provided for full boxes of long-term medications, with repeats issued for up to 6 months, at the discretion of the vet and depending on the individual circumstances of your horse's case.

Going forward, all prescriptions will be sent directly to the clients' chosen pharmacy. To facilitate this, we will require the name of the pharmacy, along with the order number they have issued. Once this information has been received, payment for the written prescription (currently £21.00) will be requested. The prescription will be forwarded to the pharmacy upon receipt of payment. Please allow a minimum of 48 hours notice for processing.

Sarcoids

Sarcoids are tumours or cancer unique to the skin of horses. The distinctive lesions formed by sarcoids are often persistent, recurrent and invade neighbouring tissue but they are not considered to spread (metastasise) to other organs so benign and unpredictable are the words to be thought of when thinking of this condition.

Bovine Papillomavirus is suspected to be involved in the disease process but unlike the lesions caused by Equine papilloma Virus, sarcoids are not warts. Sarcoids affect young to middle aged horses most commonly and whilst it is suspected that there is a genetic predisposition, an evidence base has not backed this up yet. Flies have been suggested as a vector that spreads lesions to other areas in the same horse as lesions are more common around eyes and between fore and hind legs but again this has not been definitely proven.

Although a diagnosis of sarcoids is often presumptive based on the appearance of lesions, other tumours and inflammatory conditions exist that are identical in appearance. Some conditions may need ruling out such as Ringworm or dermaophytosis to give it its technical term. Definitive diagnosis of sarcoids therefore may require biopsy and histopathological examination but rapid intervention is recommended if biopsies are taken, as sarcoids do not like to be tampered with.

Types of sarcoids:

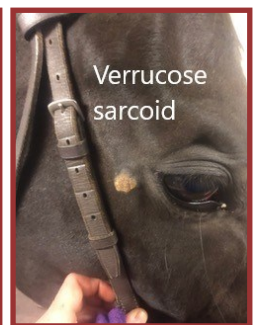
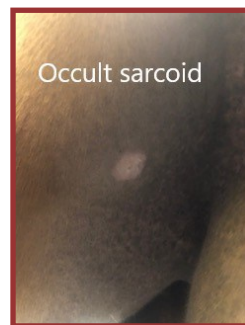
- * Occult
- * Verrucose
- * Nodular
- * Fibroblastic /Malevolent
- * Mixed



Both treatment and prognostication of sarcoid is notoriously difficult as they are so very unpredictable. Many non-veterinary and veterinary treatments are available, including the topical application of cytotoxic creams; wide surgical excision of the lesions with a laser is considered the best chance for cure.

Treatment

Treatment varies for different types, it is important to remember that you should always opt for the most effective treatment available for your horses sarcoids. The more times we attempt to treat a sarcoid, the more aggressive it is likely to become. Treatments can include topical creams, usually applied by the vet, surgical removal done under anaesthetic or standing depending on the location and severity of sarcoids, or other treatments such as banding which is suitable for some types of sarcoid and can be done on the yard. Our vets can discuss treatment options with you.



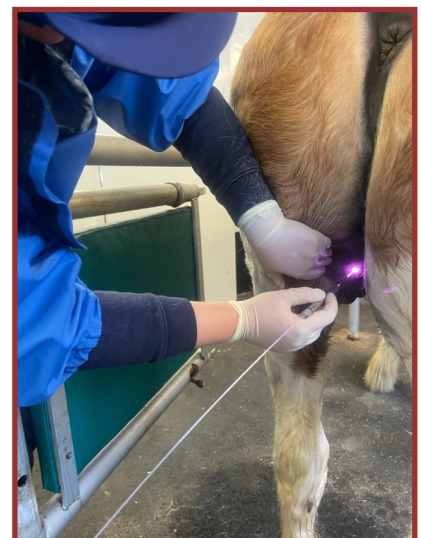
Buying a horse with sarcoids

Buying a horse with pre-existing sarcoids can be a very contentious subject. It should be talked through at length with your veterinary surgeon. Remember a pre-purchase examination (vetting) is weighing up the risk/suitability of using a horse for an individual purchaser's 'shopping list' so there are lots of factors to consider:

- ◆ Location of sarcoid i.e. type of tack required to be used
- ◆ Type of sarcoid present
- ◆ Length of time sarcoid has been dormant/present/growing etc
- ◆ Intended use of horse e.g. driving, showing
- ◆ Previous experience of purchaser of sarcoids
- ◆ Disposable income of purchaser to spend on sarcoid treatment
- ◆ Purchaser's attitude to risk

At Avonvale Equine we regularly carry out laser surgery to remove sarcoids from horses as well as helping owners and purchasers decide what to do about them.

If you are concerned about a lesion, lump or bump on your horse or a potential new horse, please don't hesitate to call our office to discuss it with one of our experienced vets.



First Aid

Equine first aid is the immediate care given to a horse when they have a serious or minor illness/injury. First aid ranges from action owners can take to care provided by a veterinary surgeon. First aid should not be provided by yourself if your life/health is at risk.

Often the best first aid is calling the vet and arranging a visit and preparing for their arrival. Important things for owners to remember when dealing with a horse that requires first aid is to stay calm. These situations are often stressful for both horse and owner but it is pertinent to keep yourself and your horse as calm as possible.

Here are some hints and tips on dealing with a variety of first aid scenarios. If you suspect your horse may need first aid or have any other questions please do not hesitate to get in touch and speak to one of our friendly knowledgeable vets!

First Aid Kit

Having a good complete first aid kit at your stables and in your horse's transport is essential. This can allow you to manage minor scrapes yourself, keep a wound clean before the vet arrives or whilst traveling your horse to the vets (if deemed acceptable by a veterinary surgeon).

Wounds:

Wounds are a very common first aid scenario that need to be carefully considered. If you are ever unsure about a wound your horse has obtained it's a good idea to contact your vet! Important things to consider when assessing a wound:

- Size – large deep wounds must be assessed by a vet. These types of wounds often require stitching whilst they are fresh. To give your horse's wound the best chance of healing it must be stitched as soon as possible.
- Location – wounds near or on a joint/ tendon sheath need prompt evaluation by a veterinary surgeon! Bacteria can easily enter the joint via a wound which can be catastrophic and require surgery.
- Lameness – If your horse is lame as a result of a wound it must be seen by a vet, even if the wound itself looks harmless. Lameness can often indicate more serious situations including infection or fractures!
- Bleeding – if the wound is bleeding profusely call your vet! If your horse has uncontrollable bleeding from a wound, keep the horse calm and apply gentle pressure using a clean object. Pressure bandages can be applied whilst waiting for the vet but only if you're competent to do so.



General First Aid

Eyes – in the summer many horses suffer with increased discharge from their eyes due to flies, this is best prevented by applying a fly mask. However, if your horse is unable to open its eye fully, the eye looks red or the discharge is not clear-white then quickly get in contact with your vet. Horse's eyes can deteriorate very quickly so prompt assessment and treatment from your vet is essential.

Choke - Choke is the colloquial term used for an obstruction of the oesophagus (the tube that connects the throat to the stomach). If your horse chokes it might appear very dramatic but is usually quickly and easily resolved. If your horse chokes then **do not panic**, often choke resolves quickly and spontaneously. If your horse has been choking for more than 30 minutes then contact your vet. Make sure to remove all food from where your horse is to prevent them from eating and making the obstruction worse.



Colic – colic is a broad term used to describe abdominal pain and discomfort in horses. Common signs your horse is colicing include flank watching, pawing at the ground, rolling, teeth grinding, yawning. There are many different causes of colic which range in severity, if you suspect your horse is colicing then always call your vet. Early intervention is always best! Whilst waiting for the vet to arrive remove all food sources from your horse. If safe to do so gently walk your horse around and do not administer any medicines unless your vet has instructed to do so.

If you suspect your horse has a problem no matter how big or small we are always happy to help and give you advice. Our vets are available 24 hours a day 365 days a year!

Directors

Naomi de Pennington MA VetMB CertEM(IntMed) MRCVS Claire Maher BVet Med MSc Cert AVP ESO MRCVS

Assistants

Emily Douglas-Osborn BVSc Cert AVP(EL) MRCVS Carys Morgan BVSc MRCVS

Esme Morris BVMedSci(Hons) BVM BVS MRCVS