



Introducing Avonvale Equine Dental Services

Equine dentistry as a subject area has evolved beyond recognition in the last 10 years; in fact, it is now a specialist veterinary skill in its own right. As with all our services at Avonvale Equine, we continually invest a huge amount in both our dental skills and dental equipment to ensure we keep current. Avonvale Equine are proud to provide a gold standard dental service which not only encompasses our practice wide compassion for our patients but is augmented by all our other veterinary skills.



Our dental team is headed up by veterinary surgeon Laura Hart BVM&S CertAVP MRCVS, who not only is passionate about equine dentistry but is currently completing yet another Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice, this time in equine dentistry. Laura and her team offer a full dental service, performed either on yard or at our clinic, with the latest technology including a state-of-the-art oral endoscope. We undertake modern dental treatments including routine maintenance, cheek tooth extractions, diastema management etc.

Our routine dental appointments promise two things – a thorough service and a safe service. We will perform a thorough examination of the whole head, teeth and soft tissues as well as taking a detailed history followed by carrying out any corrective odontoplasty (removal of dental tissue with motorised and/or manual rasps) that is required. We will ensure a safe and stress-free environment for you and your horse so that you get the best value for money from our visit and ensure your horse is performing at their very best.

Although dental examinations can be performed without sedation in calm, quiet horses there are some instances where sedation is beneficial in order both to perform a thorough examination and to create a safe environment for you and your horse. This is done on a case-by-case basis and will be discussed with you at the time but needless to say it is a small price to pay to ensure you get value for money from your horse's dental examination and treatment.



Horses are very good at hiding dental pain and a thorough routine examination can often flag up issues even before the horse shows clinical signs so we cannot emphasise enough the importance of this step in your dental appointment.

We are very proud to be able to offer veterinary services beyond routine dental examinations such as sinus surgery, tooth extractions and treatment of periodontal disease often resulting from displaced teeth or diastemata in our clinic.

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Office Hours

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

24hr Emergency Service



Contact Us

Avonvale Equine Practice
Ratley Lodge, Ratley, Banbury, OX15 6DT
(close to M40 junctions 11 and 12)

Tel: 01295 670501

www.avonvaleequine.co.uk



Avonvale Equine Dental Services continued.....

For cases that require specialist veterinary dental skills, we work alongside one of the UK's leading dental specialists Neil Townsend, who is an RCVS Recognised Specialist in equine surgery and veterinary dentistry (equine). This means that your horse can be treated in the comfort of our Ratley clinic by your trusted Avonvale vet with the visiting skills of a recognised dental specialist.

Laura and the team are always available to talk through any concerns you may have with regards to dentistry. Please do call us on 01295 670501 at any time. See page 4 for our on yard dental day offer!

Director Naomi - National Champion!

Ever wonder what our practice team get up to when they aren't looking after your horses and ponies? You'd be right to guess that a lot of them, when they leave behind their horsey patients at work, go right on home to their own horses to spend their free time with them. Madness indeed! Well, when our vet Naomi has some time off and isn't looking after her collection of ponies, sheep and pigs, she has another obsession which many of you probably know about, because she just can't help mentioning it now and again...



Photo: Paul Dean

She is often to be found cycling around the roads of Oxfordshire, Warwickshire, Gloucestershire, Northamptonshire and most probably a few other shires into the bargain. In the cold and wet winter months, when her motivation to get out on the road is a bit lacking, she competes in 'virtual' online cycling competitions with a USA-based pro cycling team, from the warm shelter of her own gym. Then when spring arrives and the weather starts to improve it is time to get the bike out on the road for some real-life racing! Wednesday evenings see her home club 'Banbury Star' hold time trial events around some local courses and the challenge to set new course records and impress her daughter with silverware encourages Naomi to acquire an ever-evolving set of aero-accessories which admittedly might appear fairly ridiculous to the uninitiated.

One rather cold morning in late March the 'I've entered so now I have to do it' mentality saw Nay making a 5am start and heading over to Newark for the National Road Bike Time Trial Championships. The challenge, to ride a normal road bike (rather than the aero time trial bike normally used for such efforts) up and down a stretch of windy A-road for 25 miles as quickly as possible. The result was a very satisfying third female overall (behind a couple of young professional racers) and a surprising age group National Championship title (the age-group in question can remain undisclosed).



Challenges for the season ahead include trying to qualify to represent Great Britain for a second time at the Gran Fondo (amateur road race) World Championships which this year is to be held in Italy in the autumn, having been cancelled for the last couple of years. In addition, Naomi and her husband Nick are travelling to France in July to ride the Etape du Tour, a stage of the Tour de France. It just happens to be a 100 mile stage that climbs over 4500m up three iconic mountains, the Col du Galibier, Col de la Croix de Fer, finishing atop Alpe d'Huez! So, don't be surprised if you see Naomi puffing and panting her way up Sunrising and Edgehill in training - feel free to shout "allez allez" but try not to make fun of her aero booties!

Sarcoids - by Alice Elgar

What is a sarcoid?

Sarcoids are skin tumours found in horses, but why they develop is not truly understood. They are thought to be caused by the *Bovine Papilloma Virus* but the mechanism behind this is not known. They are typically benign, meaning they don't spread to other organs within the body, but are locally invasive meaning they spread throughout the skin. Sarcoids are often very unpredictable – some horses will only ever have one or two which never change, while others have dramatic increases in the size and number of their sarcoids.

Once a horse has a sarcoid, it is likely to develop more, and flies are believed to be implicated in this process. As a result, it is generally recommended that sarcoids are treated as early as possible to help reduce further development. However, it is important to remember that horses cannot catch sarcoids from another horse.

Different Types of Sarcoid

Occult

- Roughly circular, hairless areas of skin – can appear similar to ringworm



Verrucose

- Grey scaly or warty appearance
- May have an occult rim



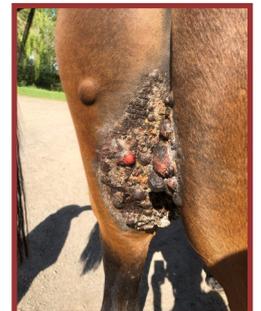
Nodular

- Discrete, firm nodules under the skin
- Can be singular or multiple
- Commonly seen in axilla, groin and inner thigh



Malevolent

- Extensive spread throughout skin
- Most aggressive form but rare



Fibroblastic

- May hang from narrow pedicle
- Have attachments to deeper structures



Diagnosis of Sarcoids

Sarcoids can usually be diagnosed by a veterinary clinical examination as they are often very distinct. In some cases, a biopsy sample may be required to distinguish it from another skin lesion such as ringworm, or in an unusual presentation. However, there are risks associated, as taking a biopsy can aggravate the sarcoid and induce rapid growth.

Treatment of Sarcoids

The best options for treatment will depend on a number of factors:

- Type of sarcoid
- Location and number present
- Previous experiences of the owner and vet
- Availability of different treatment modalities
- Finances

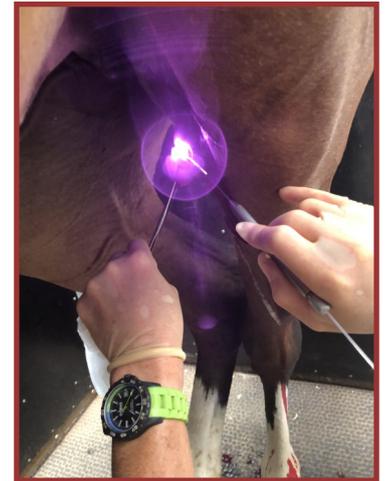
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Sarcoids continued.....

Surgical Removal

Surgical removal is one of the most commonly recommended options and can take several forms:

- Ligation with a lambing ring or suture – may be appropriate for some nodular sarcoids
- Simple excision – carries a very significant risk of regrowth
- Excision and cryotherapy – better than excision alone, but still has a high rate of regrowth
- Laser surgery – causes thermal dieback of the surrounding tissue and tissue bed. This is one of the most successful ways of dealing with sarcoids and has a very low recurrence rate



At Avonvale, we have a new, state of the art laser surgery machine which can be used to remove sarcoids both in the standing horse under sedation and local anaesthesia, or under a general anaesthetic. The method is chosen based on the nature of the horse, and the location and number of sarcoids. We generally perform laser sarcoid surgery in the clinic, but we are able to bring the machine to your yard if you have suitable facilities.

Topical Treatments

Topical treatments are also available and may be appropriate depending on the location and nature of the sarcoids and include AW5 Cream (Liverpool Cream) and other anti-viral or chemotherapeutic creams.

Injectable and Intralesional Treatment

This is sometimes used, especially for sarcoids around the eyes and use highly toxic chemicals or rods of radioactive material to kill the tumour material. Suitable cases need to be carefully selected, but these methods can be highly successful.

If you would like more information on sarcoid removal, call us on 01295 670501 to speak to one of our experienced vets.

On-Yard Dental Days

We offer discounted on-yard dental days for 5+ horses, with no call out fees. Cost per horse is £55.69 inc. VAT*

Call us to book your in your dental day on 01205 670501. For more information go to: www.avonvaleequine.co.uk

**sedation and advanced procedures incur additional cost*



Directors

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

Assistants

Nicholas Dymond MA PGCert BVSc MRCVS **Emily Douglas-Osborn** BVSc MRCVS **Alice Elgar** BA(Hons) VetMB MRCVS **Laura Hart** BVM&S MRCVS