



## THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY AT AVONVALE

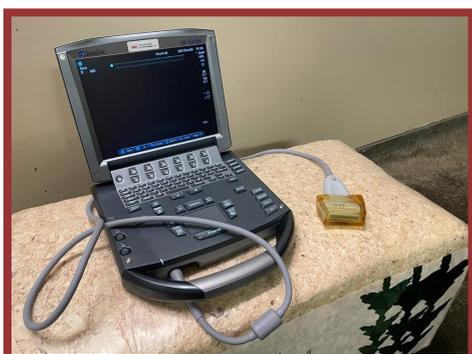
In order to offer the best possible service both on yard and in the clinic, we regularly invest in new equipment. Recently we have purchased a second portable wireless digital x-ray machine and another battery powered portable ultrasound machine.

X-rays are required for a wide variety of reasons. We regularly take x-rays as part of a lameness investigation. In this instance, x-rays allow for careful evaluation of bones and joints. Foot x-rays are frequently required to manage cases of laminitis or poor foot balance. In these cases we can come to your yard and meet your farrier for a great team approach.

In the event of an emergency, x-ray equipment is available any time of the day or night. Our nursing team are on hand to attend any emergencies with our vets if needed.



Portable X-ray kit



Portable Ultrasound

Ultrasound can be utilized in a range of scenarios; our new machine joins the four we already own expanding our capacity. Three of our ultrasound machines are mainly utilized for stud work, where ultrasound scanning mares to appropriately time covering is essential. Our new machine will mainly be used for limb ultrasound in cases of lameness evaluation. Our new machine was originally developed for use by the army, and as such it is robust with excellent battery life, making ultrasound evaluation on yard much easier.

At Avonvale we are always looking to further improve our service and patient care. By continually investing in new equipment we can ensure that more horse owners can access high quality care locally.

## EVENTS COMING UP—SAVE THE DATE

Here are some dates for your diaries:

- **Monday 28th February - next Discounted Gastroscope Day**, run by Director and Senior Vet, Naomi de Pennington and sponsored by BOVA. New and existing clients welcome, the cost is £120.00 including all sedation and VAT, payable at time of booking (non-refundable) - subject to terms and conditions. Following the scope, a full email report is provided with high resolution images, prepared and sent to you by the end of the day.
- **Thursday 24th March - FREE Client Evening, sponsored by DECHRA**, held at Ratley Village Hall (OX15 6DS). Topics will be announced very shortly, look out for more details on our social media pages.



### 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](http://www.avonvaleequine.co.uk)

## Introducing our Latest Brand Ambassadors

At Avonvale, we are passionate about supporting local clubs and riders. We invited applications for riders to become Avonvale Brand Ambassadors last Autumn and were completely overwhelmed by the amazing response. Here are our winners, who will be joining Sara Chittleburgh and Amy Pugh, our current Brand Ambassadors, to fly the flag for Avonvale.

### KATY MANNIX



Katy and Fish compete regularly in eventing, arena eventing, show jumping and dressage and most weekends can be seen out competing or training. Katy plans to continue to develop her dressage over the winter months, enter some combined training events and arena eventing, including the BE winter series, and be ready for the eventing season next year.

Katy and Fish have had some great rounds recently arena eventing at Dallas Burstion, Aston le Walls and Onley. Next will be some dressage events to help prepare for the eventing season. Katy will also be helping her sister bring on 6 year old Birdie, a 15hh mare.

### MILLIE MORGAN

Millie competes regularly on her 12 year old dun mare Molly in dressage up to novice and event up to 90cm. In October they competed at the MRC arena eventing at 80cm, the team qualified and Millie came 4th individually. They also did the BRC dressage, coming 4th in the prelim and 5th in the novice. Millie and Molly also won the BRC Area 5 Arena Eventing Award for 2020/21!

Millie got off to a flying start this year with Molly at the recent arena event at Solihull, finishing 2nd and qualifying for the NPS final in September. This photo shows Molly at the event, wearing her Avonvale saddle pad!



Last year Minky, a 4 year old Connemara mare, joined the family. She came 3rd with 72% at her first dressage competition. For 2022 Millie is planning on taking her out and doing some more competitions. We will keep you updated on her progress throughout the year.

### CASSEY WATSON



Cassey is a passionate equestrian, who spends most of her free time training, competing on her two horses King and Twig, or volunteering.

Kings Law (King), a 14 yo enjoys eventing but lately has stuck more to dressage, qualifying for the BRC Championships this year. Lead the Revolution (Twig), is a 9-yo Sports horse who was purchased as an unbacked winter project in 2016 but has very much become "horse of a lifetime", enjoying eventing, Show Jumping, dressage, team chasing, beach riding – you name it she does it! In September Cassey welcomed a loan horse to the team in the form of schoolmistress 21-year-old Springtime Cruise (Jade), she hopes to learn a thing or two from Jade's wealth of eventing experience.

Cassey is a very keen Riding Club member, having joined CROWN riding club in 2016, and would love to qualify for the BRC Eventing Championships at Swalcliffe. 2022 will see Cassey and her 3 horses enjoying the wealth of unaffiliated eventing in the area as well as BRC Area 5 competitions and qualifiers.

## VERITY MURRAY

Verity and mum Denise produce their own ponies for showing - mainly focusing on mountain and moorland working hunter pony classes but also flat classes, show jumping, dressage and eventing.

Verity and Gems Hobo placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the RIHS in the Young Riders class in 2021 and also won the first qualifiers for 2022 in both Young Riders and Open Ridden Welsh D Class, narrowly missing out on qualifying for HOYS, and finished 7th in the La Liga Consistency Awards.



## Introducing our Junior Brand Ambassadors

This year we are delighted to introduced a 'Junior' Brand Ambassador team and we are really looking forward to supporting and following their progress throughout the next 12 months. All our Brand Ambassadors have received lots of Avonvale branded goodies which they will proudly wear at competitions and events. We will post lots of updates on our pages to keep tabs on their progress.

Here are our Junior Brand Ambassadors:

### SAMMY BORLAND



Sammy is 14 and alongside Spider, a 6 year old gelding bred by Sammy's parents, she enjoys polocrosse and polo. Due to the pandemic putting a stop to those disciplines Sammy started jumping him which they now both love. Sammy attended her first Show Jumping event in July where they represented the NWPC at the Pony Club Areas held at Rodbaston College. From here they unexpectedly qualified for the Pony Club Regionals held in August. She plans to continue Show Jumping Spider and to introduce him to Eventing.

### NANCY COOK

12 year old Nancy and her fabulous Gypsy Cob Teddy Bear started out together on the lead rein and then first ridden. In lockdown they both learnt to canter and they are now doing prelim level dressage. They also like to show, attending local events as well as TOYS which they love. They recently won Best Turned out Pony and Rider at STARS and plan to compete in some country shows. Bear is also pretty famous in the western world too!



### SOPHIA O'DELL



Sophia is 11 years old and loves to show jump and is in training to do her first one day event next year. On her trusted pony George, she's currently jumping at 70/80cm for shows and training at 1m at home. Sophia is also in the middle of backing a number of youngsters, from 13h - 16.2h. Big sister Bethany is Sophia's number one supporter and they go to lots of shows together. They spend hours talking about horses, loving every minute!

## Staff Profile - Vet, Laura Hart

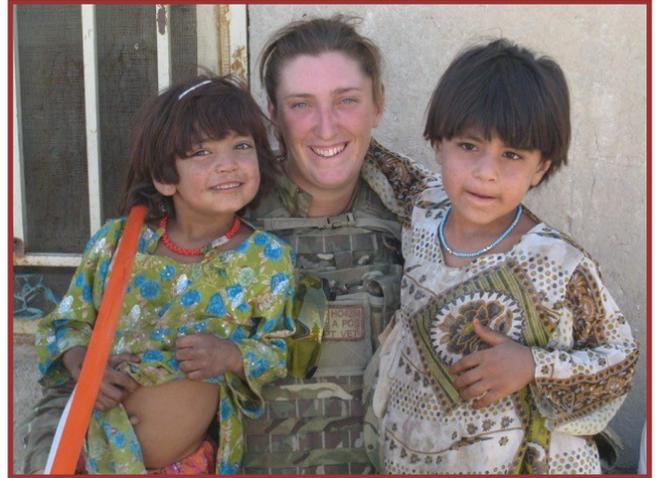
Laura joined Avonvale Equine Practice as Laura Holmes in 2015 after serving as a veterinary surgeon in the British Army and a brief stint working as an equine vet in the Black Country. Since joining us she has transitioned to both wife and mother status, and now lives in the little village of Halford with agricultural engineer husband Fred, their three year old son Henry and badly behaved mongrel Looby Lou.

Major Laura Holmes' (as she was known back then) military career saw her serve all over the world including operational service in Afghanistan and Iraq. Her most fond memories include lecturing farmers in remote villages of Afghanistan, driving quad bikes across the Afghan desert, flying the Household Cavalry Musical ride to Abu Dhabi and passing the Patrol Dog handlers course.

When at home Laura focuses on raising Henry and her house renovation. In the occasional minute of spare time, Laura sings with the Cotswold Choir and has been spotted performing at open mic nights with a local guitarist.

In work, Laura's passion for all things equine dentistry increases year on year and next year she hopes to pass yet another exam in the subject. After many hours of additional study Laura gained her Certificate in Advanced Veterinary Practice in 2016 and, not satisfied with this, since then she has taken on and passed all three Advanced Veterinary Practice Equine Dentistry modules as well as the practical exam, all with a small person at foot!

During lockdown Laura spent precious time with Henry and during his naps took up vegetable growing, transforming an overgrown disused plot of land, belonging to her neighbour, into a gardener's delight, supplying the local community with fresh garden veg.



### SUPPORTING LOCAL CLUBS AND VENUES:

Recently we have placed some Avonvale branded advertising boards at local clubs and arenas and have been supporting many events by offering lots of prizes. If you own an arena or attend a local club and there is the opportunity for us to sponsor/support you, then please get in touch with our Practice Manager Debbie Glover .

Here's Brand Ambassador Verity Murray from Flecknoe Stud and Livery with her new Avonvale arena board.

### 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  
**Mercedes Montejo** MRCVS