

HAMPSHIRE HORSE



Free publication for Hampshire horse and pony owners

OCTOBER 2004 (Issue 1)

Wel come!

Hampshire Horse is a new publication aimed at keeping local horse/pony owners and riders in touch. It is free of charge and will have a monthly distribution. If you wish to go onto the mailing list, please send your name and address to either the email or postal address below.

What's On:

Thurs 28 October: *THINK EQUUS Lecture/Demonstration 7.30pm* "Building Your Horse's Confidence" with Michael Peace and the Metropolitan Police. Merrist Wood Indoor Arena, Merrist Wood College, Worplesdon, Surrey GU3 3PE

For further details: www.guildford.ac.uk/MW/home.htm or telephone 01865 842806

Sun 31 Oct: *Candover Valley Sponsored Ride* – 8 mile ride with optional fences to suit all ages and capabilities. Schedules: SAE please to Mrs S Bullen, Avington Park, Winchester, Hampshire SO21 1BD. Tel: 01962 779260

Mon 1/Tues 2 Nov: *Dressage Clinics* at Medstead Grange Equestrian Centre. For details ring Julie Walls on 01962 777790

(If you wish to advertise an event, please send details to either the email or postal address below)

Where to Ride:

(Different areas to be featured each month)

Manor Farm Country Park, Hamble

The location Manor Farm Country Park, bordering the upper reaches of the River Hamble, has an extensive network of permissive riding routes travelling through picturesque riverside and woodland areas.

Important information Riding is strictly by permit only. Day (£8) and annual (£63) riding permits are available from Manor Farm reception. Proof of £10million liability insurance required).

For further details contact Manor Farm Country Park on **01489 787055**.

www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/manorfarm/

Facilities Horse-box parking is available within the country park. Public amenities are located at the visitor centre, where there is also a restaurant.

Titchfield Haven, Hill Head

The location This coastal stretch is the perfect place to go to get out into the countryside. Titchfield Haven is entirely undeveloped and a rich habitat for birds. With a network of permissive riding routes travelling through open farmland on one side of the valley and woodland on the other.

Important information The riding routes are public bridleways. Contact Titchfield Haven on **01329 662145** for more information.

www.hants.gov.uk/countryside/titchfield/

Facilities There are two small car parks at Thatchers Copse and in Hook Lane (Hook Lane possibly the more suited to parking trailers and lorries).

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Facilities for Hire:

Medstead Grange Equestrian Centre (situated between the A31 and the A339 near Alton)

Private hire charges:

INDOOR SCHOOL

Flatwork: £20/hour – exclusive use of school
£10/horse – if prepared to share
£25/hour – group rate of 3 or more

With Jumps: £25/hour – exclusive use of school
£10/horse + £5.00 for jumps
£30/hour – group rate of 3 or more
Plus £5/hour if lights are used

OUTDOOR SCHOOL

Flatwork: £8/hour
With Jumps: £10/hour
Plus £3/hour if lights are used

For further details please contact Medstead Grange Farm, Bentworth, Alton, Hants GU34 5NL, Tel: 01420 564440
Fax: 01420 561465 Web-site: www.medsteadgrange.co.uk Email: info@medsteadgrange.co.uk



Hampshire Horsewatch:

Every year horses and equine equipment worth hundreds/thousands of pounds - but an emotional and sentimental value that cannot be quantified - is stolen in Hampshire. Specialist thieves target stables and other rural premises where they know security might not be so tight and where it is less likely that someone will be around. They know that there is a strong possibility that what they steal cannot be personalised by the real owner.

As a response to this problem Hampshire Constabulary is spearheading a Hampshire Horsewatch scheme in a bid to cut this tide of thefts and heartache for the owners of horses. The scheme's aim is to offer advice and guidance to all those involved in equestrian pursuits - no matter how large or small their roles might be - on the best ways to ensure they don't get an unwelcome call from the equine criminals.

The official Horsewatch Website which is part of the NFED (www.nfed.co.uk/horsewatch.htm), provides advice on cheap and simple crime prevention measures that horse and stable owners could take to protect their property and animals as well as a database of identifiable equine equipment and horses that have been stolen, along with photographs.

Please refer to the website for details of area co-ordinators, news, forum, membership etc. www.nfed.co.uk/horsewatch.htm

*** ARTICLES ***

MUD FEVER

(Taken from the Liphook Equine Hospital web-site www.liphookequinehosp.co.uk)

Cause

Mud fever is caused by an organism called 'Dermatophilus congolensis' (Dermatophilus meaning "skin loving"). This organism is a bacteria, although in many ways it is similar to a fungus. It lives in the soil and can survive from year to year. The bacteria cannot penetrate normal healthy skin. However, in the winter, rain and mud soften the skin. Continual wetting and drying will cause the skin to chap and the bacteria are able to enter the skin. Here the bacteria multiply and cause the characteristic symptoms. Hence muddy conditions are not always necessary to cause mud fever. Anything, which breaks the skin, such as a scratch or graze, can also allow bacteria access.

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Symptoms

Mud fever can be recognised by matted hair, crusty exudate and scabs that form on the legs of the horse. It is usually seen around the coronet, heels and pastern, although scabs may form higher up the legs as well and even onto the belly. It is more common on white legs with pink skin and in horses with more feather. In severe cases the bacteria will penetrate right through the skin and multiply underneath it. This results in the leg swelling up and the horse may become lame.

Treatment

Treatment of mud fever must be vigorous and immediate. First of all it is important to remove all the scabs and exudate from the area as these harbour the bacteria. This is best achieved by using a dilute antiseptic solution, such as Povidine, Hibiscrub or Malaseb shampoo to soften the scabs and to clean right down to pink healthy skin. Initially, poulticing may be required to soften the scabs. Afterwards it is important that the leg is very thoroughly dried.

Once the scabs have been removed, an antibiotic cream such as Dermobion should be applied twice daily; the scabs will reform rapidly, so it will be necessary to repeat the antiseptic wash daily. If the leg becomes swollen or lame a course of antibiotics may be necessary as well. In these cases the horse should be examined and treated by a vet.

It is often very difficult to completely eradicate mud fever, so rigorously applying antibiotic cream and cleaning the scabs away must continue until the legs are completely healed. A close check should be kept for any signs of mud fever recurring.

Aftercare

After the mud fever has gone the skin is often very tender, so applying a soothing cream such as zinc and castor oil may be beneficial.

Obviously it is better if the horse does not get mud fever in the first place. If the horse has muddy legs, they should be allowed to dry and the mud brushed off. This is better than washing the legs every day because however thoroughly the skin is dried, it will still tend to chap.

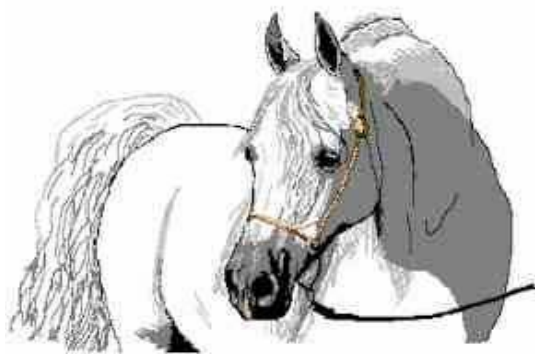
If the horse acquires minor scabs on the legs, a close watch should be kept on these to ensure they do not develop into mud fever.

To Stable or Not?

(Taken from www.saddler.co.uk/tips)

As winter approaches horse owners worry about whether their horse should be tucked up warm in its stable or outside in the cold. Eileen Gillen, manager of Belwade Farm, the ILPH's most northerly recovery and rehabilitation centre, gives her views:

How many of us, as a matter of course, always keep the horse stabled during the winter months? Is it because they are in work and clipped out, so that they do not lose condition? Is it because they will poach the ground causing more work and expense for the human to reclaim good grazing for the summer? Or is it because we feel sorry for them, as they cannot come into the house to sit by the fire so we stick them into a box to make us feel better? The important way to look at this situation is by deciding what the horse thinks about it all. They are herd animals who in general are more resilient than we give them credit for.



They can adapt to various situations if they are given half a chance to acclimatise to their surroundings. The horse grows a winter coat that we clip off because they will sweat too much when exercised. Good practice, we all think. But how many of us exercise for only one hour a day and then expect the horse to stand in for the other 23 hours? We then wonder

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why he has started to box walk, weave or kick the door down. Most of us will end up acquiring objects to amuse them while they are standing in their box bored. When all they want is to be outside doing horsey things. If you are worried about turning the horse out in the cold, pick up any equine magazine and you will find rugs to keep an Eskimo warm at -40°C. If you are worried about a tendon pull as it races round the paddock then it was probably waiting to happen due to a weakness there anyway.

I feel strongly about this because we come across too many horses that are not let out at anytime. These are not happy horses. Sometimes you are told that the horse is worth too much to risk. But what is a horse worth who has severe behavioural problems? An example I came across recently was a Thoroughbred stallion. He was put into a barn and when mares came to be covered they were put in with him. He is never let out of this barn and this has been going on for four years. He is in good condition but quite unmanageable.

If it is necessary to keep a horse stabled to control its environment then the following should be done: Ideally, where possible the horse should be in hard work, it should be on controlled rations and the stable should be big enough to accommodate them and have good ventilation. Stabled horses tend to have more ailments than unstabled horses. It is very easy to label a horse as having COPD, when all it really wants is good clean air. To keep the horse sane it should be allowed access to a paddock so it can relax in its natural form. Yards with large number of horses often find turning out horses for an hour a day impractical. One observes that horses in this sort of environment are frequently the ones with the vices!

A final thought: In the winter when it is snowing or raining how often do you see a horse standing outside beside its wonderful field shelter? Yet in summer, on a lovely sunny day they are inside getting away from the flies.



Local Classifieds:



FOR SALE: Wheel cover for spare wheel of 4x4. Stainless steel edge with picture of horse (black sketch on white). Excellent condition. Suitable for Rav4 or similar. £45.00 ono.

Tel: 023 9259 6491 / email: laudan@zoom.co.uk

Advertise locally *FREE OF CHARGE* horses/ponies for sale, for loan, wanted, transport, accessories etc. To place an advertisement, please email details to hampshirehorse@hotmail.com

Trade Advertisements:

If you are a local business and wish to advertise within the Hampshire Horse, please email hampshirehorse@hotmail.com or ring 07759 571864.

If you have enjoyed reading this newsletter, please let us know and send any tips, advice, articles, suggestions etc. etc., we would love to hear from you! Send us your address and you will receive a copy of each issue.

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