

Animals are currently in the news for a variety of reasons that affect us all.

PHENYLBUTAZONE IN HORSES

Amid the recent headlines regarding the discovery of horsemeat in human food products is the more fundamental concern that it may be contaminated with phenylbutazone. 'Bute' is a commonly used anti-inflammatory in horses, both cost-effective and safe to use longer term. Unfortunately, there is a low risk to human health of inducing blood discrasias such as anaemia if eaten in sufficient quantities. Horse passports were introduced in 2005 to stop bute entering the foodchain in the EU markets where horsemeat is knowingly eaten; however, with the discovery of horsemeat-contaminated food products in the UK, that risk is now present amongst us.

We encourage all horse owners to sign Section IX of their horse's passport, if they have not already done so, preventing their horse being sent for human consumption. Otherwise, we are obliged to see the passport every time we visit in case it is necessary to enter some of the drugs we administer. Section IX MUST be signed if the horse has ever been administered bute. Remember that it is an offence for a horse to be owned, sold or transported without a passport but we can help you with this too.

MICROCHIPS IN DOGS

In 2016, new legislation means that it will become an offence to own a dog which has not been microchipped. If you would like to microchip your dog now, our discounted offer of £10 is still ongoing.

PUPPY CLASSES

We have had a great response to our new Puppy and Young Dog Training Classes at Foxhold surgery, held on Wednesday evenings and run by Dale Foley; our vet nurse Paula Carey also attends and can answer any questions you may have. Please ring reception to find out when the next course begins if you would like to join in.

SCHMALLEMBERG VIRUS

This new virus has spread across the UK over the last year and is now thought to be ubiquitous. It is spread by midges and affects cattle, sheep, goats and possibly alpacas by causing deformities in newborn animals. If you are breeding this season and concerned about the risk to your livestock please call us for more advice.

COACH HOUSE CARE

Our CHC scheme, which provides your horse or dog with complete annual healthcare at a discounted rate (paid for by monthly direct debit) is proving hugely popular, especially for owners with older animals that need that bit more TLC! Horse clients also gain a 50% discount on any subsequent visits.

Please ring reception if you would like to join: 01635 254544 or visit

www.coachhousevets.com.

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