

WELCOME



WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF PINKHAM EQUINE NEWS!

We're delighted to bring you the latest updates from the team. In this newsletter, you'll find recent developments within the practice, current insights from the equine industry, and discussions on seasonally relevant conditions and diseases. We hope you enjoy it!

It's an exciting time at the practice, with a fantastic team and plenty happening. If you haven't already, do take a look at our new website www.pinkhamequine.com to find out more. While you're there, you can also watch a recording of a fascinating talk by Chris Proudman MA VetMB CertEO PhD FRCVS, on how a foal's gut microbiome can influence its disease risk and performance later in life.

Thank you for being part of our community and for your continued support.

Best wishes

Charlie

THOROUGHBRED YEARLING SALES 2025

It's a particularly busy time of year for the practice, with many of the equestrian disciplines we care for in full swing.

The flat racing season is reaching its climax, with Champions Day just a few weeks away, while the point-to-point season is gearing up. The eventing season has been busy and successful, and showjumping and dressage continue throughout the winter months. Meanwhile, polo shows no signs of slowing down as players transition from grass to all-weather pitches.

This is also a very busy period for thoroughbred yearlings heading to sales in the UK and across Europe. Many of these young horses require video-scoping and specific radiographs to ensure they are in top condition for both the sales and their future racing careers. On arrival at the sales, yearlings often undergo a brief veterinary pre-purchase examination, blood sampling to screen for prohibited substances, and wind testing to check for any laryngeal or respiratory issues.

If you are planning to purchase a yearling at the sales and would like any assistance, please don't hesitate to get in touch with Charlie on 07780111421.



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

NEW TEAM MEMBER

PINKHAM IS EXCITED TO WELCOME DR RACHEL SALZ

BSC (HONS) BVETMED MRCVS DIPLOMATE ACVSMR

Vet Rachel completed a neuroscience degree at the University of Edinburgh before attending the Royal Veterinary College (RVC) in London. Rachel graduated as a veterinary surgeon in 2009, before making the move to Sydney, Australia, to undertake an internship at Randwick Equine Centre.

After completing the internship Rachel stayed on and spent 2 years predominantly doing racetrack work. Having been a keen event rider herself, she developed the sports horse aspect of the practice and completed a residency to become a Diplomate of the American College of Veterinary Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation in 2016. Rachel spent a further 7 years at the practice looking after elite sports horses as well as two leading Sydney racehorse trainers.

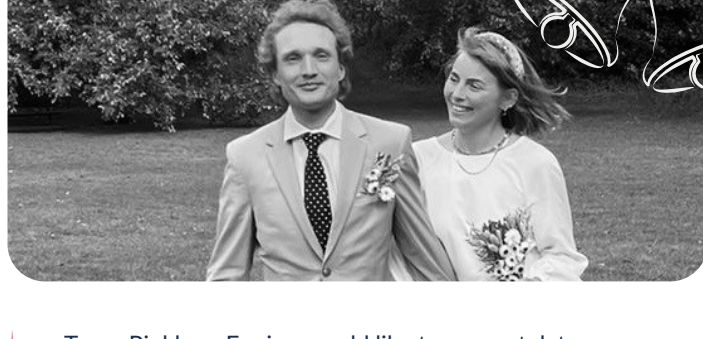
Rachel moved back to England two years ago to be close to family. She has spoken at international conferences on equine back problems, lameness and rehabilitation, as well as publishing several equine research articles in leading journals. Rachel's main interests are lameness, diagnostic imaging and rehabilitation. Rachel has a wealth of knowledge and experience and is dedicated to helping keep horses at peak performance.

Rachel is also an FEI treating vet. Rachel will be available on a consulting basis to work alongside our team of expert vets on all things lameness, performance and rehabilitation. If you might like Rachel to consult on your performance horse, call the Pinkham office on 01722 741188 or Whatsapp us on 07572 167343.



WEDDING BELLS

MR & MRS COOKE



Team Pinkham Equine would like to congratulate Pinkham nurse Charlotte on her marriage to Ben.

Charlotte and Ben enjoyed a small intimate ceremony during the first week of September. We wish them all the best in their future together.

“ CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEW MR AND MRS COOKE! ”

IT'S NOT GOODBYE, IT'S 'AU' REVOIR

The Pinkham Equine vision is 'to provide excellence in clinical care for our patients and an outstanding level of service for all our equine clients' and the achievement of this long-term goal comes a lot of determination, dedication and commitment from the whole team. With this in mind, we are excited to see two of our excellent vets, Rebekah McFarling and Amber Segre, head 'down under' to Australia to continue expanding their knowledge very soon!

After a busy but successful breeding season in the UK, Amber will be spending the next several months working in 'the horse capital of Australia' at Scone Equine Hospital. Amber will be involved in all aspects of stud and foal medicine at several large studs and farms.

Beka will be heading to Crown Equine Group, a world-class veterinary practice based across 4 locations. Beka will initially be based in Canberra on Thoroughbred Park racetrack, honing her skills in all things lameness, respiratory and medicine. Beka will then fly to Queensland where she will be assisting the Gold Coast team with thoroughbred sales at the prestigious Magic Millions yearling sales.

We are looking forward to welcoming Amber and Beka back early in 2026 to hit the UK stud season running!

Please join us in wishing them both the best of luck!
The Pinkham Equine Team!



ATYPICAL MYOPATHY

Atypical myopathy (AM) is a muscular disease that affects horses and is caused by Hypoglycin A (HGA), a toxin found in sycamore seeds and seedlings. It is a life-threatening disease with mortality rates of around 75% and the onset can be rapid. Horses can deteriorate quickly when clinical signs become visible, so it is important to call your vet immediately if you are worried about your horse. Not all horses, however, are affected by the toxin, so you may see individual cases of AM despite a whole herd being exposed to sycamore seeds or seedlings.

CLINICAL SIGNS OF AM

Once ingested, HGA causes the muscles to breakdown, which leads to symptoms such as muscle tremors, high respiratory rate and dyspnoea (difficulty breathing), muscle weakness and stiffness, and recumbency. Myoglobinuria is another common sign

that causes the urine to turn dark red or brown due to the products of the muscle breakdown being released into the blood and filtered out into the urine. Horses appear depressed with their heads hung low and are often reluctant to move. They may also have colic-like signs such as sweating, trembling, and shivering, as well as a high heart rate. It is critical to be able to identify these signs of atypical myopathy and to call your vet immediately.

WHEN DOES AM OCCUR?

Outbreaks of atypical myopathy are most prevalent during the autumn and spring. Outbreaks are more likely to occur after high winds and wet weather. Seed fall is heaviest in the autumn, and although horses often avoid other plants such as sycamores, it is common for those on restricted or poor grazing to eat anything in their pastures when hungry. Similarly, during the spring, when the seedlings begin to grow, this can be enticing to horses. It is important to provide plenty of supplementary forage which will help to prevent them from having to look for extra food.

HOW TO PREVENT AM

The most effective method of prevention is to remove the seeds from your pastures during the autumn before they germinate into seedlings the following spring. Seeds can be carried long distances by the wind, so be vigilant even if you don't have sycamore trees directly in your fields. It is a good idea to fence around sycamore trees where seed fall will be most dense as this will help to reduce the likelihood of them being inadvertently ingested. You can also pull up and remove the seedlings in spring to prevent them from continuing to grow.

Where possible, remove your horses from contaminated paddocks and always provide supplementary feed to minimise the risk of horses being tempted to eat the seeds. It can be difficult to prevent this disease entirely if you have sycamore trees in or near your fields, but by being vigilant, you can reduce the risk of your horse getting atypical myopathy. Identifying these signs is important so supportive treatment can be started as soon as possible.

REGGIE'S ULCER STORY

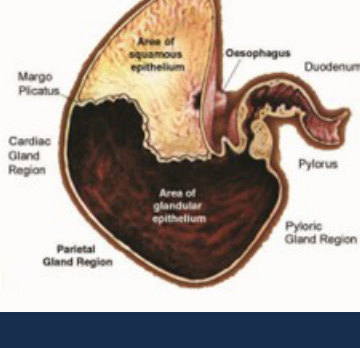
Reggie is a 10yr old thoroughbred ex-racehorse bought by Jo a couple of months ago. Within a couple of weeks of moving to his new home, Reggie's personality completely changed from being a quiet, cuddly, friendly horse, to a spooky, grumpy, anxious horse that despised being groomed and refused to stand at the mounting block.

Vet Rebekah went out to gastroscop Reggie as she suspected these behavioural changes may be a pain response caused by gastric ulcers. The scope revealed nasty grade 3 squamous ulcers along the margo plicatus and on the lesser curvature of the stomach, as well as a single deep ulcer at the pylorus (exit of the stomach).

Reggie was put on a 4-week course of once weekly omeprazole injections. Jo noticed an improvement in his behaviour straight away, which continued to get better over the course of his treatment.

On week 5, Rebekah went back to re-scope Reggie to check the treatment had been fully effective. Thankfully, the gastroscop showed a complete resolution of all ulcers! Rebekah discussed the various management practices to help prevent ulcers in the future and started Reggie on an ulcer supplement.

If you think your horse could be showing signs of suffering with ulcers, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the Pinkham equine team.



STRANGLES VACCINE AMNESTY

Strangles is a widespread, highly infectious disease caused by the bacterium 'Streptococcus Equi subspecies Equi'. It is known for causing significant illness in affected horses and ponies, as well as disruption to the running of yards and farms due to the need for quarantine and movement control at affected premises.

Horses are infected by coming into contact with purulent material (pus) or respiratory secretions from infected horses, either directly or via 'fomites' (humans or objects such as grooming equipment, feeding buckets, tack). Infected horses typically develop a fever and nasal discharge, with a significant proportion developing abscess around the jaw or throat. Some infected horses will go on to become silent carriers who can shed intermittently for months or years.

The treatment of a strangles outbreak typically involves supportive care as needed to affected individuals and implementation of an isolation and testing protocol to ensure the disease is contained and eliminated as quickly as possible. An effective vaccine is now also available and can be used to prevent clinical disease and minimise spread. This vaccine is an exciting development which has potential to greatly reduce suffering and improve outbreak control.

If you want more information about the strangles vaccination, please get in touch on 01722 741188 or WhatsApp us on 07572 167343 and we will be happy to discuss it with you and explore whether it would be appropriate for your horses.

The primary course is 2 vaccines, 4 weeks apart. From November 10th to December 10th 2025, we will be running a 'vaccine amnesty'. If you do choose to start a vaccination course between these dates, your 2nd dose will be supplied free of charge.*

This amnesty represents a great opportunity for yard mates to take advantage of the strangles vaccine at reduced cost.

*Please note that only the 2nd vaccination is supplied free of charge, visit fees will still apply.

Please call on tel: 01722 741188 or WhatsApp us on: 07572 167343.

