



Introducing Vet Christina Stuart

Christina qualified from Royal Veterinary College this summer, gaining the Vial St Bel Medal prize. Born and bred in Warwickshire Christina is no stranger to the team at Avonvale, having completed numerous placements here. She is looking forward to completing her internship, developing her skills in general practice and has a particular interest in both stud work and dentistry.

Christina has a wealth of equestrian experience, having previously gained a first class honours degree in Equine Science and working for British Dressage. Christina is an experienced show rider, having successfully produced show ponies up to HOYS and RIHS standard, including the late Queen Elizabeth II Balmoral Fell ponies taking part in both the Diamond Jubilee and 90th Birthday pageant.

Christina enjoys all things outdoors, she has represented her university in netball and clay pigeon shooting, is a keen runner, wild swimmer and dog walker, the latter with her and her partners cheeky wirehaired Daschund puppy, Sprout.



Lucy celebrates 20 years at Avonvale



Congratulations to our amazing Head Nurse Lucy, who celebrates 20 years of loyal service with us. Lucy joined us as a young 20 something year old and was promoted to Head Nurse back in July 2012.

Lucy has a passion for surgery and really enjoys all aspects of her nursing role, whether it be out on the road assisting the vets, in clinic looking after the inpatients or managing our pharmacy. She is Student Vet Nurse Fiona's clinical coach and has been a huge support to Fiona as she finishes her studies.

Lucy and husband Tom have two beautiful daughters Eleanor and Georgia, who love spending time with their horse Quilly. Alongside pet Springer Millie, they also have lots of sheep! There is never a dull moment in the Lawson household.

Here's Lucy receiving her gift and flowers from Directors Naomi and Claire at our recent Client Evening. A huge thank you to Lucy for her continued support, hard work and loyalty. We are really lucky to have such a great team, who work so hard to support our clients.

Office Hours

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

Contact Us

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(close to M40 junctions 11 and 12)

Tel: 01295 670501

www.avonvaleequine.co.uk



24hr Emergency Service

Wounds by Vet Laura Holmes

Traumatic wounds in horses are never identical, which might lead you to think that we treat every wound differently. However, once we have established that we don't have a blood loss issue or a joint or synovial structure involvement, then we apply some evidence based principles of tissue healing and then can rapidly formulate a plan to put the wound in the best conditions to heal. Due to the curvy nature of horses we often have to get creative but the basic principles stay the same!



There are three things that all equine wounds need for sure (and none of them are ever purple/blue/green spray....NEVER EVER EVER!!) :



Cleanliness - However your horse has injured themselves, a portal from the grubby outside world into the sterile environment inside your horse has been created. This doesn't mean your horse needs antibiotics; technically a contaminated wound isn't an infected wound at point of injury and responsible use of antibiotics dictates we don't use them 'just to offer antibiotic cover'. The 'solution to pollution is dilution'; cleaning the wound is vital. Sterile saline is our liquid of choice (home made or from our cars) but water can also be used in an emergency for gross contamination removal. We spend hours cleaning wounds and so please don't be tempted to put lotions or creams back in the clean wound unless we've told you to. Contamination of any kind (even if that contamination is simply you putting a wound cream on) may lead to infection and this WILL put a stop to healing. Technically chlorhexidine inhibits the granulation stage of healing so we are very careful when in the process we use it and the strength at which we use it. If in doubt, ask!

Immobility - Horses are not known for their ability to heal quickly and that ability decreases further if the wound edges are moving. This is particularly important when there are less underlying muscles or on legs, which like to move constantly! Whether it is box rest, a bandage, a bandage cast or sutures and staples, we will manage you and your horse through the stages of healing, amending our plan depending on what the wound needs.

Moisture - As we keep mentioning, horse wounds are inefficient at healing but a moist wound environment definitely helps healing faster than a dried out one. If a wound is left to dry out or flesh becomes proud of the wound edges then the cells will simply give up trying to close the hole. Depending on the stage of healing and type of wound will dictate which method we choose to keep a wound moist. Hydrogel is never the wrong answer, yellow/purple/green/blue spray is always the wrong answer. Medical grade manuka honey has a place as does aluminium spray but not for every wound. If in doubt, just pop us a picture and we can advise.

We may decide to achieve immobility, post cleaning cleanliness and moisture simply by suturing or stapling a wound and at the other extreme we may apply extensive dressings but whatever the wound, regular updates to your vet are advised to ensure we assess the need to change tactic or move you on to the next stage of healing.



Directors

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

Assistants

Emily Douglas-Osborn BVSc Cert AVP(EL) MRCVS Laura Holmes BVMS Cert AVP(ED) MRCVS Carys Morgan BVSc MRCVS

Marika Sodano DVM MRCVS Christina Stuart BSc(Hons) BVetmed(Hons) MRCVS