



SPRING 2025

Fiona Watt Qualifies / Worm Egg Count Package / Meet our new Brand Ambassadors / Strangles Vaccine and the impact of Strangles

Fiona Watt becomes a Qualified Veterinary Nurse

We are absolutely thrilled to announce that Fiona Watt has qualified as a Registered Veterinary Nurse.

At Avonvale we pride ourselves in supporting staff through their professional development and for the past two years Fiona has been working tirelessly towards her VetSkill VTEC Level 3 Diploma in Veterinary Nursing (Equine) programme, through VetPartners, based at Liphook.

This intensive course incorporates theory at VetPartners nursing school with theoretical assignments, written exams and logging practical skills for her portfolio. She worked closely alongside her clinical coach, Head Nurse Lucy and our vets to develop her skills whilst carrying out her normal day to day nursing responsibilities.

Huge congratulations to Fiona for all the hard work she has put in over the past 2 to 5 intensive years, this is a fabulous achievement. We should also say a massive thank you to all the Avonvale staff who worked alongside Fiona to help make this possible.



Take advantage of our Annual Worm Egg Count Package

A faecal worm egg count (FWEC) is used to estimate the level of worm burden in your horse and to determine whether a worming treatment is required. FWECs are an important tool for worm control and should be conducted every 12 weeks for adult horses during the grazing season. Equisal tapeworm tests are recommended every 6 months, ideally in Spring and Autumn.

Our annual worm control package is designed to offer tailored, responsible worming guided by regular worm egg counts.

What is Included in Our Annual Worm Control Package?

Our comprehensive horse worming programme, suitable for horses aged 2 years and older, includes:

- 4 x faecal worm egg counts
- 1 x weigh tape
- 2 x Equisal tapeworm saliva tests
- Unlimited and up-to-date advice from our knowledgeable equine vets, ensuring that you receive the guidance and support you need throughout the year

All of this is included for **£90.00 per year (inc VAT)**.



SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION
ON WORM EGG COUNTS



Office Hours

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

Contact Us

Avonvale Equine Practice

Tel: 01295 670501

www.avonvaleequine.co.uk



24hr Emergency Service

Introducing our New Brand Ambassadors for 2025

We are thrilled to announce our new Brand Ambassadors for this year. These riders will be flying the flag for Avonvale Equine Practice alongside some of our 2024 riders and we will be posting regular updates on our social media channels. Please do follow us on Facebook and Instagram if you don't already.

Katrina Baker



Katrina and Patch, a 16yo Irish sports horse, have been keeping busy enjoying some unaffiliated competitions, catching the eye of the judges with two 2nds most recently.

Katrina and Patch are a fairly new partnership and are enjoying getting to know one another whilst out and about. Katrina is a member of Crown Riding Club and will be competing in many Riding Club events this year.

Patch loves strutting his stuff and jumping, he certainly knows when the camera is pointed in his direction!

Claire Jones



Busy Claire works full-time for the NHS which helps fund her horse obsession. She competes regularly in dressage and combined training mixing unaffiliated, British Riding Club and British Dressage. She also enjoys taking part in riding club camps and is based in the Worcestershire area.

Her main competition horse is Joey, a 15yo Chestnut Gelding. This year Claire wants to focus on BD Quest and the BD combined Training Championships Qualifier in March - a tough call with only 2 qualifying for the finals. She would also like to participate in the winter and summer BRC Area Dressage qualifiers so fingers crossed.

Tia, a 24yo Chestnut Mare, takes more of a back seat but Claire hopes to qualify for the BD Associated Champs again for the veteran classes later this year.

Jemima Merriman-Warne



Jemima is 17 and has been riding all her life. She rides 'Aubrey Delight', known as Orb - a 9yo Connamara xTB, who Jemima has owned since 2020.

Jemima's main discipline is Eventing and she currently competes at 80/90cm. She has also evented with her Mum's horse Minnie, a 16yo Irish x TB at 80cm, but last year was busy with GCSE's and starting college to study floristry, so she has taken a bit of a back seat.

This year, Jemima is hoping to step up to competing full time at 90cm on Orb and ideally go BE with the view of potentially qualifying for Badminton Grass-roots. She would love to qualify for the Horse Events Championships at Dautsey for the second year running and the Cotswold Cup final.

Megan Jefferson (Junior)



15 year old Meg is based in the Warwickshire area and has grown up around horses and ridden all her life.

She currently has two horses, a 14yo 14hh Piebald Cob called Sherlock and a 5yo dapple grey, Anglo European called Spider.

Meg backed Spider in November 2023 to hopefully go eventing, as well as doing some Pony Club competitions this year, they are out and about virtually every weekend! Sherlock has just retired from show jumping and the Pony Club and is now sticking to blood hounding and hunter trials.

Morgan Matthews (Junior)



Here's 6 year old Morgan and her lovely Shetland pony Eddie, who alongside Mum Marie and Dad Pete, are 'Team Matthews'.

Eddie has been trained by Marie since 2020. He and Morgan competed in their first show when Morgan was just 3 years old, at CKRC in 2022. In 2024 Morgan and Eddie featured in Horse and Hound, when she was Supreme Overall CHAPS Champion on Eddie aged 5. Morgan also came 2nd at the Royal International in the home produced first ridden finals last year and third in the lead rein.

Team Matthews are out and about showing weekly and love every minute. It will be great to follow Morgan and Eddie's progress this year.

Verity Gulliver



Verity and Mum Denise run Flecknoe Farm Stud and have lots of exciting youngsters coming through. Sangrug Annie is a rising 5yo Welsh Cob mare who Verity hopes to compete in working hunters and flat classes, amongst others. She won her first ever jumping competition in December and won her first flat show last summer.

Flecknoe Little Gem is a homebred Welsh Cob mare who placed on the front line at Royal Welsh last year in the 3yo filly and gelding class and has now been broken. Verity is looking forward to going under saddle and having an educational year doing a few shows and fun rides. She's a true black beauty and Verity has high hopes for a successful year. Verity also has two yearlings to show in hand this year, a Welsh section filly called Seren and another homebred show pony filly called Tia.

Georgia Mellor (Junior)



Georgia is 15 years old and lives locally in Warwick. She's an all-rounder but is hoping to start eventing more in the near future.

She rides the lovely Frankie, a 17yo 'been there, done that' kind of horse and they've been riding together for the past two years. They are currently competing at 70/80cm showjumping and hope to step up and do some 70cm cross country.

Georgia and Frankie are having regular training sessions with some top coaches who've been to HOYS and they are determined to get some great results this year.

Did you know???

Avonvale Equine Practice is a privately owned independent practice, with both owner/directors working as part of the veterinary team.

Owners Claire Maher and Naomi de Pennington work alongside five other experienced vets and two qualified nurses to offer compassionate and professional patient care 24/7.

We are open to new clients - call today to register, visit our website to complete our online registration form: www.avonvaleequine.co.uk or call us on 01295 670501.



**Independent
Equine Veterinary
Practice**

Strangles Vaccination now available!

Strangles is a highly contagious bacterial disease which causes infection of the lymph nodes of the head and neck. All equines can be affected and are often very unwell with this disease. Strangles can result in lymph node abscessation and these abscesses often rupture, creating draining infectious lesions.

Outbreaks result in long periods of yard lockdown and isolation, causing serious economic issues on professional yards and hours of stress and worry for horse owners.

Vaccination offers the best form of protection and you can book your vaccination for £60.00 including VAT. Vaccinations are available on our FREE zone visit scheme so book today. The second vaccination is to be booked 4 weeks after the initial vaccination and boosters are required between 6 and 12 months.

Call us if you would like any more information on the strangles vaccine.



How to rein in the impact of Strangles

Strangles is a highly contagious bacterial infection of the lymph nodes of the head and neck caused by the bacterium, *Streptococcus equisubspecies equi* (*S. equiequi*).

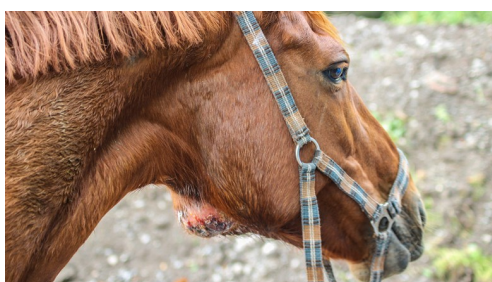
Clinical signs can vary between horses and signs to look out for include:

- Fever, usually at least 39-40°C or 102.5-104°F (this is usually the first clinical sign to occur)
- Swollen and painful lymph nodes around the head and neck leading to abscesses
- Difficulty swallowing and breathing and abnormal respiratory noises
- Cough
- Depression and loss of appetite
- A runny nose (watery to begin with, but becoming thick pus within days)

There is also a form of the disease known as 'atypical strangles' which is when horses only show very mild clinical signs, but they are still infectious.

Some cases develop serious complications such as 'bastard strangles' and purpura haemorrhagica; bastard strangles is when abscesses form in different areas of the body, while purpura haemorrhagica is inflammation of the blood vessels which leads to swelling (oedema). This can occur under the belly, limbs and the sheath. There are often small areas of bruising/bleeding on the mucous membranes (gums and eyes).

Vaccination is a useful management tool, alongside good stable management and biosecurity measures, and can play a really important role in improving herd immunity and reducing the number of strangles cases in the equine population.



Read more about strangles, strangles prevention and outbreak management by visiting <https://www.dechra.co.uk/equine/vaccines/strangles>

You can also read our informative blog on our website—visit: <https://www.avonvaleequine.co.uk/blog/equine-strangles-awareness/>

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