



SPRING 2023

*Spotlight on Naomi / New Cushigoid Health Scheme / Introducing
New Brand Ambassadors / Acupuncture / Mud Fever*



Spotlight on Director Naomi de Pennington

Naomi graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2001 with degrees in zoology and veterinary medicine having also gained half-blues representing Cambridge in the lightweight women's boat race and the Oxford-Cambridge cross country Varsity match. After 2 years in a mixed practice in Berkshire, she moved to Avonvale. She liked it so much she quickly put down roots, this year will be her twentieth year at the practice!

After a couple of years at Avonvale, Naomi decided to get back to some study and in 2006 she gained her Certificate in Equine Internal Medicine, recognition from the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons of deeper knowledge and skill in this area of equine practice. At the inception of the Royal College Advanced Practitioner Status, Naomi was amongst the first cohort of vets in the country to achieve this accolade, becoming recognised as an Advanced Practitioner in Equine Internal Medicine.

Arriving at Avonvale, Naomi also quickly developed a passion for stud and foal medicine, mentored by the amazing Andrew Higgins. Over the years this has become one of her main passions and she has led our stud medicine service since Andrew's retirement, working on thoroughbred studs as well as heading up our AI team. Naomi's other work-related passions include cardiology, ophthalmology, gastrointestinal medicine and colic surgery. Naomi has been a director of Avonvale since 2008.

Outside of work she looks after a smallholding with three ponies of varying sizes, a flock of rare breed sheep, a trio of pigs, a couple of cats and a pair of chocolate labs. She is an obsessive road cyclist, having won time-trial medals at national championships and twice represented Great Britain at the Amateur World Championships.

AI and Stud Services at Avonvale

Avonvale offer a comprehensive stud service, with packages tailored to suit your mare, whether you run a stud or have a single mare and whether you are considering natural cover or chilled or frozen semen Artificial Insemination. We are a BEVA recognised practice for AI, which means that members of our team have received excellent training in all aspects of AI and keep up to date with developments in this area of equine medicine. We have hospitalisation facilities for mares and foals and can offer intensive care nursing and emergency c-section and colic surgery when required. Our experienced team of dedicated equine vets and nurses are on hand 24 hours a day, seven days a week to offer advice and support whenever needed.



For more information, visit our website: www.avonvaleequine.co.uk/our-services/stud-medicine-and-ai/

Office Hours

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



24hr Emergency Service

Contact Us

Avonvale Equine Practice
Ratley Lodge, Ratley, Banbury, OX15 6DT
(close to M40 junctions 11 and 12)

Tel: 01295 670501

www.avonvaleequine.co.uk

Introducing the new Avonvale Cushingoid Horse Health Scheme

At Avonvale Equine, we appreciate that caring for horses on long term medication is a huge commitment. Cushing's Disease, officially known as Pars Pituitary Intermedia Dysfunction (PPID) is commonly seen in teenage or older horses and as a life-long degenerative condition, is managed by medication, which horses stay on for the rest of their life.



We are delighted to introduce our new 'Cushingoid Horse Health Scheme', designed to offer you a simple, convenient and affordable plan, spreading the cost of essential treatment and drugs by means of a simple monthly direct debit, with excellent cost saving benefits.

What's included?

- 2 x prescription checks per year, including clinical examination on yard *
- 2 x ACTH monitoring blood tests per year, including sampling and handling fees
- 25% discount on full boxes of Pergoquin (box of 200)
- Dedicated phone call from our experienced vets to discuss blood results, tailoring a personalised plan for your horse
- Free use of weighbridge in clinic
- Free advice from our team of vets, 24/7

*This service is available under the free zone visit scheme (see separate terms and conditions). For appointments outside the zone visit scheme, a call out fee will be charged and must be paid as per our normal terms and conditions.



What are the benefits?

- A hassle-free scheme, with regular check-ups
- Simple monthly payments allowing you to spread the cost and budget easily
- 25% discount off Pergoquin (only applicable to full boxes)
- Potential savings of over £185.00 a year (figures based on horse needing 1 tablet per day)
- Medication dispensed directly from the practice, so no need to send off prescriptions
- Seamless care and support for your cushingoid horse at all times



What's the cost?

The cost of our monthly scheme is £17.50 per month, per horse, taken by direct debit. Payment can also be made upfront on an annual basis if this is preferred. Terms and conditions apply, please see our website for further details: www.avonvaleequine.co.uk.

What to do next:

Simply complete the registration form on our website, including your bank details, in order to set up the direct debit and we'll do the rest. If you have any questions, please just call our team on 01295 670501.

For more information on Cushing's Disease (PPID), please visit our blog on our website.

New Brand Ambassadors

We are delighted to announce our new Brand Ambassadors, who will be flying the flag for Avonvale over the coming year. At Avonvale, we are passionate about supporting local clubs and riders and it is always a pleasure to follow the progress of all our Brand Ambassadors throughout the season. We regularly post updates on our social media so please follow us if you don't already.

HELEN ROBERTS



Helen is passionate about the oldest and rarest breed of heavy horse in Great Britain - the Suffolk Punch. Owing Fred and Walt has been a lifelong dream and this mighty trio enjoy attending many shows throughout the season, including small 'meet and greet' events as well as working events with the Midland Heavy Horse Association. With only 34 foals registered in 2020, this breed has been in decline since the tractor took over from farm horses back in the 1940's, but Helen's mission is to share her passion and knowledge of the breed and of course Fred and Walt love to be centre of attention.

Fred is broken to harness and saddle but mainly focuses on harness work. Walt is only 2 so just starting out. Both are shown-in hand and Fred in his harness as well. Fred will be competing in some 'decorated harness classes' (the ones with lots of brass!), definitely a crowd pleaser as the horses look so stunning in their finery.

SAMMY BORLAND



16 year old Sammy has been one of our Junior Brand Ambassadors for the past 12 months. A member of North Warwickshire Pony Club, Sammy has been riding since she could walk. She enjoys polocrosse as well as eventing, showjumping, cross country and dressage.

She and her homebred horse Spider competed at the Pony Club Championships held at Offchurch, playing polocrosse for North Warwickshire Pony Club placing 3rd overall. She now also leases Mallow from Berni Newcombe and had a very busy 2022 enjoying many events. At the The Pony Club Barrier Spring Festival at Arena UK for the arena eventing, she placed 8th overall. She also competed for her school Princethorpe College at their two day event, a fantastic event with the team coming 1st in the 90cm and at the Hickstead Elite Championships, a great trip with the team finishing 5th overall.

At the North Warwickshire Pony Club Area Eventing, she just missing out on a qualifying spot at PC Champs. Not to be deterred by this she attended Solihull for The Pony Club Area Grassroots Show jumping, Sammy and Mallow took 1st place qualifying them for the Regional Championships at Eland Lodge where a cheeky pole in the jump off put them out of the ribbons. Finally to finish the season the pair attended Offchurch Bury for the Lands Eventing Unaffiliated ODE where Sammy and Mallow flew the flag for Avonvale Veterinary Practice. A personal best in the dressage, clear in the Show Jumping and clear in the XC with a great time.

We are sure 2023 will be a great year for Sammy even whilst juggling GCSE's along the way.

RUBY DONNELLY

16 year old Ruby is an enthusiastic equestrian with a passion for showjumping. She owns a 14.2hh Welsh X Irish sports pony called Jack who loves competing, he's jumped up to 1m10 but is now jumping the smaller tracks unaffiliated as well as competing some low level dressage and going out on fun rides.

Ruby also owns a 16hh, Belgian warmblood named Olly who's 7. They have had multiple wins up to 1m20, always out competing at affiliated events with lots of wins under their belt. Ruby is hoping to qualify for some big shows coming up this year.



JO BEARCROFT

Jo is based in a beautiful part of the Cotswolds with her team of three ex-racehorses and a Thoroughbred x Connemara, with a further two ex-racehorses joining the team for re-training.

Jo regularly competes with several high profile wins last season, including Blenheim where she secured Regional Prelim Champion in the RoR dressage and also won the RoR Veteran National Championship at Aintree. Jo has had many wins at dressage from prelim up to advanced medium and for a bit of a variety competes showing in MandM's and Working Hunters. Good luck to Jo and her team in 2023!



MOLLY PERKINS



20 year old Molly owns two horses; Della (De L'Amour) and Ro (Rebel Sky). An aspiring event rider, she is currently competing at 80 and 90cm with Della who was broken and produced by Jonelle Price. The pair have only been together for about 4 months and are already out and about winning at dressage, combined training and show jumping as they build their relationship ready for the eventing season.

Molly also competes for the University of York where she's Captain of the Development team.

For 2023, Molly plans to try and qualify for either the Bramham 80 Championships or Badminton grassroots. She's currently focused on training and fitness ready for the event season.

Introducing our Junior Brand Ambassadors

MEGAN COOPER



15 year old Megan is based in Banbury and has been riding for the past 6 years. For 2 years she has owned a beautiful horse called Strawberry, a 15.1hh 12 year old Irish Sport.

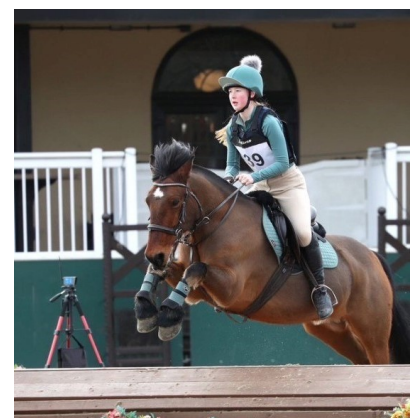
Megan and Strawberry enjoy competing in a variety of competitions, from dressage, show jumping, cross country to ODE. She recently competed at the arena eventing at Dallas Burston as well as show jumping at the Cherwell Competition Centre at the end of November. Megan is planning on a career in the equine industry so she certainly has a passion for all things equestrian!

LILY MORRIS

Lily is 15 and owns 14.2hh Monty. She competes in showjumping, eventing, arena eventing and dressage and rides for her school and Warwickshire Hunt Pony Club.

She has many competitions planned for this year and is hoping to qualify for various championships, her favourite being the NSEA Arena Eventing National Championship held at Hickstead.

Currently competing at 70-85, she's hoping to step up to 90+ soon. We look forward to following Lily's progress throughout the year.



ELOISE STARR

Eloise is 15 years old and is passionate about horses and in particular eventing. She started competing with her new horse Vagas last year, a 16.1hh, 14yo Dutch Warmblood mare. She regularly competes at 80cm but aims to move up the levels to Novice.

When not competing, Eloise can be found doing clinics, lessons or going out for hacks either on Vagas or Minnie, her 14.1hh, 17yo Connemara mare, who she has been bringing back into jumping.

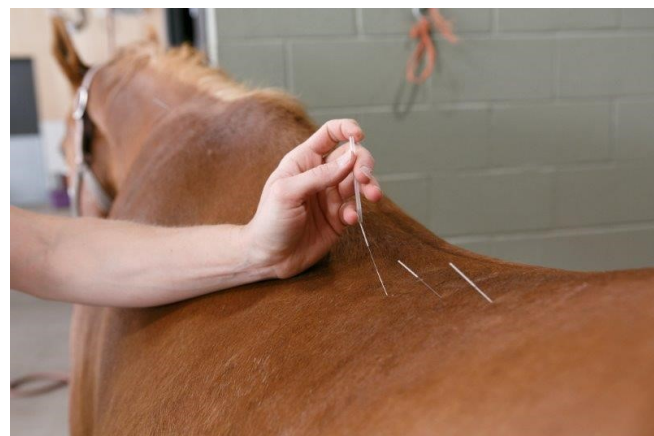
Eloise also competes for her school as well as for Solihull Riding Club, winning awards for her results and contribution to the club and area.



Acupuncture

What is acupuncture?

Acupuncture is a complementary therapy which is often used alongside conventional veterinary medicine and physiotherapy to provide pain relief, support peak performance and help with rehabilitation of musculoskeletal conditions. It involves inserting sterile needles into specific points of the body to stimulate nerve endings and prompt a response from the nervous system. It can be used to treat muscle pain and soreness and is especially useful in the back, neck, shoulders and hindquarters.



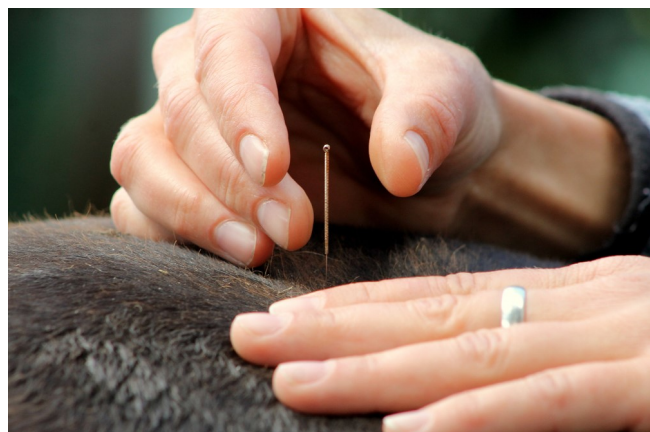
Does acupuncture hurt?

No. Acupuncture doesn't hurt, it may have an unpleasant sensation in areas that are particularly sore or hypersensitive. Most horses tolerate acupuncture well - many horses become extremely relaxed, some almost seem sedated, during treatment.

What conditions can be treated with acupuncture?

Common conditions that may be improved with acupuncture are:

- General stiffness
- Arthritis
- Back pain
- Neck pain
- Sacroiliac pain
- Kissing spines (acupuncture can be a very helpful tool to help with rehabilitation after surgery or medication)



Who can perform acupuncture on my horse?

In the UK, acupuncture can legally only be carried out by a qualified veterinary surgeon. We can carry out acupuncture at the clinic, or at your yard - we require a clean stable with no bedding (or bedding swept back). Your horse must be clean and dry to be treated.

We are happy to offer this service and our Vet Carys Morgan is on hand to answer any questions you may have. Please call us on 01295 670501 for more information.

Mud Fever

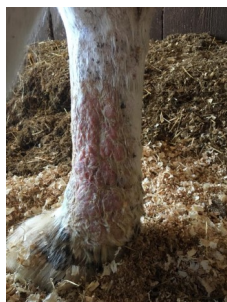
“Mud fever”, otherwise known as pastern dermatitis, is a skin condition of the heels and lower limbs where wet turnout conditions allow bacteria to breach the skin barrier, causing painful sores and scabbing.

Dermatophilor congolensis is usually the bacteria most cited as the main cause of mud fever, however infection with other types of bacteria, such as *Staphylococcus aureus*, *streptococcal* species and other faecal contaminants is common. These bacteria thrive in warm damp conditions, causing inflamed sores which scab over and give the characteristic appearance of mud fever.

Mud fever appears very similar to and may be confused with; or seen concurrently with other conditions such as chorioptic mange (leg mites), harvest mites, contact allergy, ringworm, autoimmune or liver disease.

Clinical signs may include:

- Reddened inflamed skin
- Itching
- Bleeding
- Thick scabs that are difficult to remove
- Purulent discharge



Treatment:

The horse must be removed from the field and put onto box rest, or a similar system where the legs can stay clean and dry. The area around the scabs should be clipped completely, failure to do so will give poor results unless the hair around the heels is very fine. All scabs should be removed and the wounds cleaned with dilute hibiscrub. Then they should be carefully dried with paper-towel, or even with a hair dryer. This should be repeated daily until the lesions are improving, after which they can be left to scab over and heal. Turnout should only resume after the lesions have completely healed. Drugs such as phenylbutazone (“bute”) are often given to reduce inflammation and pain.

If thorough cleaning and drying can be achieved, the skin environment is no longer hospitable to the bacteria, and the horse’s body will usually be able to tackle the infection itself.

Occasionally mud fever can cause a more serious skin infection (cellulitis); in these cases the limbs will swell and the horse will be lame and painful. In this scenario antibiotics (either oral or topical) may be required and you should contact your vet.

Prevention:

Mud fever is generally accepted to be more common in horses with legs that are washed after turnout, as the reduction in temperature restricts the blood flow to the lesions and limits the body’s ability to fight the infection. Muddy legs should either be left to dry and then have the mud brushed off, or should be washed with warm water and dried thoroughly prior to stabling.



Regular clipping of the lower limbs means the skin can dry quicker and prevents the development of the bacteria-friendly warm damp skin environment.

Good paddock management during winter to reduce poached ground will also help prevent cases occurring.

Horses that are prone to mud fever should have a barrier cream such as “Mud-Stop” applied before turnout, but the legs must be clean and dry before application, otherwise there is a risk of trapping bacteria beneath them.

Directors

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