



**JULY/AUG 2020**

*Avonvale lockdown stories / zone visits / artificial insemination*

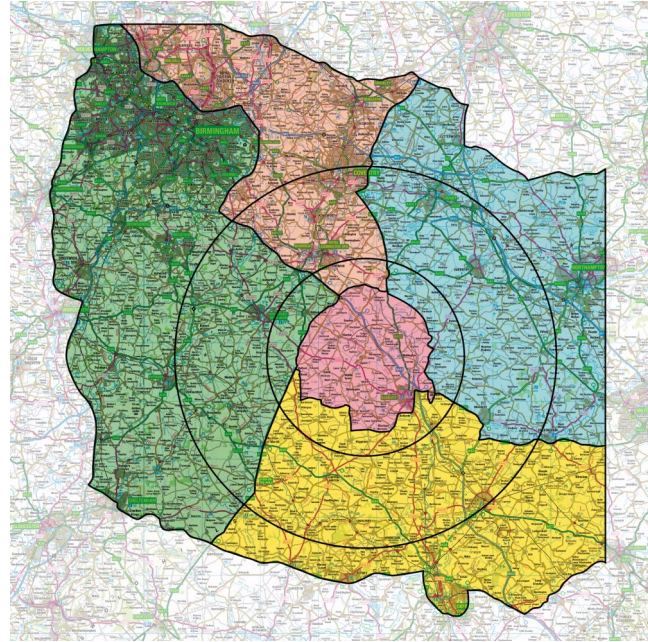
## ZONE VISITS

We are happy to announce that our popular zone visit scheme will return, under its previous terms and conditions, on 30th June.

### Zone Visit Terms and Conditions:

- ◆ Zone visits are for routine work, such as vaccinations, dentistry, prescription checks, some examinations and some treatments, such as Dectomax injections for mites.
- ◆ To qualify for a zone visit your account must be paid up to date.
- ◆ All bookings must be made at least 48 hours in advance.
- ◆ We will allocate a 2-hour time slot the day before, you must be available for the duration of your 2 hour time slot, as the vet will not be able to ring ahead.
- ◆ Payment must be made on the day.
- ◆ A specific vet cannot be requested on the zones.

To book in, or to find out more, please ring the practice on **01295 670501**.



## SOCIAL DISTANCING AND VETERINARY VISITS

We are pleased to be running our usual services at Avonvale, including all elective work such as stud medicine and pre-purchase examinations.

We would politely request that our clients keep at least one metre away where possible to allow our vets to work safely. We may send out one of our nurses with the vet to hold the horse, so that proper social distancing can be adhered to. The vets will be carrying masks and gloves and may request that you wear them for difficult procedures.

The reception team will be asking a few questions about your health and shielding status. If you develop symptoms of COVID-19 and have an appointment booked, please contact the office immediately.



## ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION PACKAGES

Avonvale offers competitive, comprehensive artificial insemination packages for chilled and frozen semen, which can be performed in-clinic or at your yard. Contact the office for more details.



### 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](http://www.avonvaleequine.co.uk)

# AVONVALE

## LOCKDOWN STORIES

### DOTTY AND APRIL

Avonvale has had some exciting cases over the lockdown period that we would like to share with you in this issue, and the most popular of which without a doubt was April, who became a social media sensation overnight.

Naomi was called as soon as April's mum Dotty began foaling, when it was immediately apparent that the foal was not presenting in the correct position. A foal should be born in a 'diving' position with its nose between its front legs. In this case, the nose was present, but both front legs were bent back. Following examination and sedation, the mare was immediately transferred to our clinic facility. Dotty was anaesthetised by Claire, while Naomi, Line and Kat worked to deliver April via a midline caesarean section.



Very few foals survive caesarean section births, as normal stage two labour in horses happens very quickly (an average of 16 or 17 minutes). Any delay results in the foal being deprived of oxygen, however April proved all the statistics wrong, and was resuscitated by Kat and Max within minutes of being born.

Once recovered from her general anaesthesia, Dotty was extremely accommodating at letting us milk her hourly, although at this stage still blissfully unaware of the existence of her foal in intensive care in another stable. Physiotherapy was performed on the foal's front legs, along with administration of large intravenous doses of oxytetracycline and careful application of splints to encourage stretching of the tendons and ligaments.



By day two, April was able to stand for short periods with assistance, and her ability to get up and move around increased steadily over the next 3 days. By day five, we decided she was strong enough to be introduced to her mother. Fostering a foal onto even a very experienced broodmare can be challenging, so we knew that introducing this foal to its mare which had never had a foal before, several days after the operation, would be a monumental challenge, but undoubtedly the best long-term outcome for both. With dedication, persistence, around the clock monitoring and a very good natured mare and a very determined foal, the bond grew over the following day.

We were overjoyed; six days after the surgery, to be able to discharge the mare and foal home, now one happy mother and daughter unit, knowing they would get fantastic ongoing care on their stud. The foal's legs have strengthened slowly but surely, helped by some toe extensions applied by farrier Martin Reed and very gentle strengthening exercise. April is now out in the field enjoying life as a happy normal foal.

There was a fantastic sense of achievement at a brilliant outcome, the result of great teamwork between stud, vet and nursing team and farrier.

