

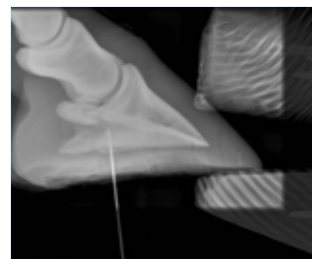



THREE COUNTIES EQUINE HOSPITAL

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2007

My horse has trodden on a nail....what do I do?

Standing on a nail is a common injury in horses and one which can have serious consequences if not treated promptly. A puncture wound of any sort to a horse's foot can easily access some of the deep synovial structures contained within the hoof capsule (coffin joint, navicular bursa or deep digital flexor tendon). Any sort of penetrating wound to the hoof needs veterinary attention, those which are deep or around the middle third of the frog may be particularly serious. Hopefully the injury will just require assessment, poulticing and possibly antibiotics, but if any of the vital structures are affected then surgery may be required to lavage the affected area. In order to assess the depth and direction of the penetration it may be necessary to radiograph the horses' hoof, sometimes using contrast medium to see if communication exists between the nail hole and a vital synovial structure. If tetanus cover is not up to date then tetanus antiserum will also be required. If your horse suffers any sort of foot penetration then you should remove the nail, **taking careful note of the site, angle and depth of the penetration**, keeping the nail to show the vet on arrival. This information will be extremely helpful when deciding how serious the injury is. The foot should be poulticed or tubbed while waiting for the vet to arrive.



Pictured top right: A horse that had suffered a nail penetration to the middle of the frog, showing a radiograph with a probe in the hole, extending up towards the navicular bursa and coffin joint. 

Pictured below right: The same horse with contrast liquid injected into its navicular bursa ruling out communication with the nail hole.

Please visit our website www.tceh.co.uk to find out more about the facilities at the clinic, the staff, and other useful information for clients. We welcome your feedback. If you would like to receive your copy of the newsletter by e-mail please contact the surgery info@tceh.co.uk with your address.

IRAP®

Irap® is a novel biological treatment which has been used recently as an aid in the management of lameness caused by inflammation and/or degeneration within joints. By harnessing the regenerative and anti-inflammatory properties of the horse's own blood cells, damaged musculoskeletal tissues are encouraged to heal.

The technique involves the retrieval of 50ml of the horse's own blood using a special collecting syringe. This undergoes special treatment in the laboratory ('conditioning') prior to retrieval of protein-rich serum, which is then injected back into the horse, usually on 3 or 4 occasions, at the site(s) of injury or disease. A period of rest may be advised as appropriate.



Although use of this treatment is still in its early stages, preliminary results are encouraging and Irap® represents an exciting addition to our therapeutic range in the management of equine lameness. Furthermore, since no prohibited substance is administered, there is no withdrawal period for competition.

Due to the specialised equipment required, the cost of the initial collection can be up to £600, which along with multiple joint injections (depending on various factors) can add up to a total cost in the region of £1000. Please contact the surgery for further details.





Thankfully, the recent severe flooding in the surrounding towns of Upton and Tewkesbury didn't quite reach the hospital at Ripple, allowing business to continue as usual. Our best wishes go out to those clients that have suffered difficulties due to the flooding. [Photos of Upton upon Severn by Simon Lusty.](#)



Staff news

Welcome to new Veterinary Surgeon Claire Gilbert. Claire originates from Bromyard and has joined the team, having previously worked at an Equine Hospital in Dorset and Redwings Horse Sanctuary in Norfolk.

We also have 2 new additions to the nursing team: Tracy Haines has joined us from Greenwood Ellis and Partners in Newmarket and Jo Howell has spent time working at the Veterinary Hospital at the University of Edinburgh.

Equine Dentistry case study

Bobby is a 24 year old pony that presented to TCEH as his owner was concerned that he was losing weight and quidding when eating. On examination of his mouth, it was obvious that he had severe overgrowths of some of his cheek teeth, leading to difficulty eating and ulceration of his cheek. These overgrowths were removed with a power tool with Bobby lightly sedated. Older horses and ponies are particularly prone to dental problems including missing or loose teeth, diastemata (gaps between teeth leading to food pocketing) and dental overgrowths due to abnormal wear. The teeth of horses and ponies of all ages should be checked by a vet at least annually, sometimes more frequently if a particular problem is present. It often makes sense to carry out a routine dental examination at the same time as the horse's annual vaccinations.



Pictures of overgrown cheek teeth and some resulting cheek ulceration.

