



NEWSLETTER

SPRING | MARCH 2026

Three Counties Equine Hospital, Stratford Bridge, Ripple, Tewkesbury, Gloucestershire, GL20 6HE

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Easter Opening Hours

Over Easter, our office will be open as follows:

Friday 3rd April 8.30am-12.30pm
Saturday 4th April 8.30am-12.30pm
Sunday 5th April CLOSED
Monday 6th April CLOSED

We will of course be available 24/7 as usual for any equine emergencies you may have.



Client Evening - Save the date!

We will be hosting a client evening on 24th March 2026 at 6pm at Three Counties Equine Hospital, when Lucy Brock and Fiona Tonry will be discussing all aspects of breeding the Sports Horse, including how we can help you and your mare in 2026.

Please contact reception on 01684 592099 to save your space, we are anticipating high demand so book in early to avoid disappointment.



New Services in Equine Reproduction for 2026

We are delighted to announce that Lucy Brock MRCVS has joined our team. Lucy is a certificate holder in Stud Medicine and brings a wealth of experience to the practice in all fields of equine reproduction. She is currently on stud season 25 (we think), and has previously worked in world renowned stud practices, including Scone Equine Hospital (Australia), Newmarket Equine Hospital, and Twemlows Stud Farm. Lucy has extensive experience in Thoroughbred and Sports Horse stud work, and can offer expertise in AI and advanced breeding techniques such as embryo transfer. She has a particular interest in infertility and 'problem mares'. Please feel free to get in touch if you would like advice or an opinion on any aspect of breeding.

****New for 2026****

We will be offering packages for Embryo Transfer packages, please contact Lucy to discuss these on 07483 550070.



Spring

Dentistry Offer

Throughout March and April we are offering 10% discount on routine dentals and a free visit fee when 5 or more horses are booked in for routine dentals at the same yard. Call reception now to book in!



New evening appointments

We know how difficult it can be to fit in routine appointments for your horse when juggling work and family life. Therefore, this Summer, from 7th April until the end of September, we are offering routine visits on until 7.30pm on Tuesday and Wednesday evening (on the second week of each month this will be a Monday and Tuesday). These appointments are available for routine appointments – re-assessments, vaccinations, dental examination – call reception to book in.



K-Laser therapy at TCEH

K-Laser therapy is a non-invasive, drug-free treatment modality that delivers high-power laser energy to target tissues, promoting pain relief, reducing inflammation, and enhancing tissue healing. At Three Counties Equine Hospital, we continue to expand our rehabilitation and pain-management services and are pleased to offer Class IV K-Laser therapeutic treatment as part of a multimodal treatment approach to various conditions.

We are using K-laser routinely post-operatively to improve surgical outcomes for both orthopaedic and colic surgery, and offer competitive prices for this. We are also able to hospitalise horses for a course of stand-alone treatment, which is usually covered by insurance companies (requires pre-authorisation). This is especially useful for orthopaedic injuries, where improved mobility and comfort are often noted, management of chronic wounds and peripheral nerve damage.

Treatments are delivered to the highest clinical standards by our qualified and experienced nursing team.

Strangles – Protect your horse before the competition season

Strangvac® has now been in use for several years to help protect horses against *Streptococcus equi equi*, the bacterium responsible for Strangles. With over 10,000 horses vaccinated, we now have a clearer understanding of its safety and effectiveness.

- **Safety-** The vaccine is safe - Around 5% of horses may develop mild swelling or tenderness at the injection site, or fever. As Strangvac® is not a live vaccine, it cannot cause Strangles.
- **Effectiveness-** While no vaccine offers complete protection, Strangvac® significantly reduces the severity of disease. Vaccinated horses are less likely to develop severe clinical signs, and the occurrence of abscess formation is lowered.
- **Reducing Spread-** Vaccinated horses shed lower levels of bacteria, decreasing the risk of transmitting infection to others.
- **Diagnostic Testing-** Using the vaccine does not affect the ability to identify natural infection.
- **Biosecurity Considerations-** Vaccination should form part of a broader disease prevention strategy rather than replace it entirely, but can reduce the risk of the infection being brought on to a yard.
- **Cost Considerations-** Preventing Strangles through vaccination is financially sensible. Insurance estimates suggest that an outbreak can cost approximately £1,000 per affected horse. While some cases are mild, severe Strangles can be distressing, lead to complications, and in rare cases be fatal. The current cost is £62.42 (including VAT) per dose, plus any applicable visit fees.
- **Which Horses Should Be Vaccinated? Priority should be given to horses at increased risk, including horses:**
 - on livery yards with regular movement of horses.
 - travelling regularly and contacting other horses.
 - that may have been exposed to a confirmed case.
- **Vaccination Schedule-** The initial course consists of two injections administered approximately four weeks apart. The original product guidance advises a booster at two months in high-risk situations. However, research indicates antibody levels persist for at least 12 months. In practice across the UK and Europe, boosters are commonly given every 6–12 months following the primary course, with timing based on individual risk assessment.
- **Use with Other Vaccines-** Although the vaccine is not licensed for simultaneous administration with other vaccines, practical experience suggests that giving it alongside influenza or tetanus vaccination does not increase adverse reactions, making co-administration a convenient option.

Infectious Disease Prevention

Most horse owners are aware of the availability and requirements for vaccination for Equine Influenza, however there are other infectious diseases that we are able to vaccinate against to help protect your horse when they are out and about this summer.

