

A one day seminar aimed at racehorse trainers, breeders, owners, veterinary surgeons and bloodstock agents, as well as other organisations associated with the racing and Thoroughbred breeding industries.

9.45am Registration

10.30am Introduction
Dr Peter Webbon - Seminar
Chairman, Chief Executive, Animal Health Trust

10.40am From the flat or from the store – minimising bone and tendon injuries in National Hunt horses

In a study aimed to estimate the incidence of, and risk factors for, fractures and tendon injuries, and to test the hypothesis that there would be a difference in injury rates between ex-flat and ex-store horses, detailed records were collected over 2 years from 14 yards. A description of the results from this study will be presented.

Dr James Wood, Cambridge University

11.10am Questions and discussion

11.15am-12.15pm Exotic or on our doorstep?

11.15am African Horse Sickness – risks and contingency plans

Climate change makes African Horse Sickness a serious threat that could devastate the whole equestrian industry of the UK. The disease will be described and the role of everyone involved with horses in combating this threat will be discussed.

Brigadier Paul Jepson, The Horse Trust, Princes Risborough

11.30am West Nile Fever – current threats to the British horse population

The North American horse industry has now become accustomed to living with West Nile virus and its threat to the UK horse population remains ever present. The dangers of the disease to the horse population will be described, along with the public health aspects of this potentially devastating infection.

Dr James Wood, Cambridge University

11.45am Swamp Fever – what is it and why worry about it?

Equine infectious anaemia was largely unknown in Great Britain and Ireland until it exploded on to the scene in 2006. In this presentation the disease, its epidemiology and the latest situation with respect to national threats and preventive control measures will be reviewed.

Dr Peter Webbon, Animal Health Trust, Newmarket

12.00 noon Questions and discussion

12.15pm Inflammatory Airway Disease – when are National Hunt horses most at risk?

Some results from a recently completed epidemiological study of respiratory disease among horses in training in five National Hunt racing yards during the 2003/4 and 2004/5 seasons.

Dr Richard Newton,
Animal Health Trust,
Newmarket

12.45pm Questions and discussion

12.50pm Lunch

2.00pm Shockwave therapy – fact and fiction

Extracorporeal shockwave therapy is one of the only significant recent advances in the treatment of orthopaedic disorders in racehorses. Its background and clinical applications will be presented, as will new work on its use in treating angular limb deformities in foals.

Mr Andy Bathe, Rosssdales Equine Hospital, Newmarket

2.20pm Questions and discussion

2.30pm Strangles – is it on the increase and how to manage it in studs and training yards

Strangles is the most frequently diagnosed equine infectious disease with enormous financial and welfare consequences. This presentation will set out infection control methods designed to minimise the risk of exposing horses to strangles.

Dr Andrew Waller, Animal Health Trust, Newmarket

3.00pm Strangles – managing an outbreak

An illustration of the sequence of events during a strangles outbreak, and the ways in which application of the voluntary code (STEPS) can help limit the health and economic impact of the disease.

Mr Jamie Gartside, Tay Valley Veterinary Centre

3.15pm Questions and discussion

3.30pm Medication control - research update

The HBLB funds research on drug metabolism and excretion at HFL to protect the integrity of British racing while encouraging the appropriate use of medication to ensure the health and well being of racehorses. This presentation will provide an overview of some of the current research.

Dr Lynn Hillyer, British Horseracing Authority, London

3.50pm Administering electrolytes – why, what, when

Electrolytes are abundant within the body and are essential for the maintenance of normal function. Horses cannot make electrolytes and must obtain them from their diet to constantly replace those lost in urine, faeces, sweat and breath. This presentation will explain what electrolytes horses need to be given according to their diet, level of work and climate and how and when to feed them.

Dr David Marlin, Science Supplements, Newmarket

4.10pm Questions and discussion

4.30pm Summary and close

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