



## McKenzie, Bryson and Marshall

# Autumn Equine Newsletter

2011



### Dr Matthews

Dr Matthews continues his involvement with ophthalmic problems in horses, and in April attended the annual meeting of the International Equine Ophthalmology Consortium (IEOC) in West Palm Beach, Florida. Two days were spent with in depth discussions of horse eye problems with vets from all over the world. The meeting ended with Dr Matthews being elected to serve as IEOC President Elect for 2011-2012. He will subsequently serve two years as IEOC President, and is very much looking forward to the challenges and opportunities this role will present. The 2012 IEOC annual meeting will take place in Stirling, and the 2013 and 2014 meetings will be in Houston, Texas and Berne respectively. It's a hard life!

In addition to his IEOC involvement, Dr Matthews has had a busy year teaching horse ophthalmology, having lectured in Ghent and Oslo earlier in the year, and with courses in



Italy and Austria planned for later in the year. In early September Brian Gilger, the Professor of Ophthalmology at the University of North Carolina Veterinary School will be visiting the practice. Dr Gilger is an internationally recognized academic and researcher in the field of horse eye disease, and is currently president of the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists. At MBM we like to think he is coming to Ayrshire to complete his education! After his visit both Dr Matthews and Prof Gilger will be traveling to Liverpool where both are lecturing at the annual conference of the British Equine Veterinary Association.



### Have you found us on Facebook?



McKenzie, Bryson and Marshall equine now has a page on facebook. We hope this will be an easy way to keep people updated on what is happening in the practice, as well as being a place for discussing hot topics or just providing interesting information. Please let us know what you think or if there is anything you would particularly like to see.

[www.facebook.com/mbmequine](http://www.facebook.com/mbmequine)

### Congratulations!

Well done to Jamie, who has recently passed the RCVS certificate in Equine Internal Medicine. This examination requires presentation of a case book, a written examination and then a practical and oral exam where three experts grilled him on internal medicine, an experience we are sure he is glad to have over and done with!



## Strangles Panic

As most of you will be aware, there have been a few outbreaks of strangles in Ayrshire. This bacterial disease seems to cause mass panic amongst horse owners and we have had a lot of very worried people on the phone. It is right to be concerned about these cases, but most of the horses we see with strangles have mild respiratory signs, snotty noses, sore throats and a high temperature, rather than the classical signs of abscessation that are shown in the press.

We have had more strangles cases than usual but it is important to realize that there is always strangles circulating, so it is sensible to practice good bio-security all the time and not just when you hear about outbreaks like the recent ones.

The most important thing is to be responsible. If you have a horse on your yard



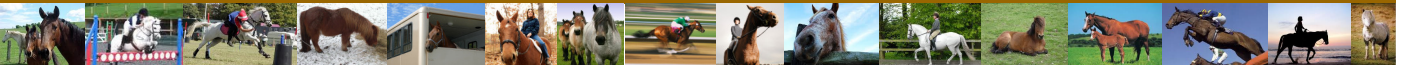
whether it is strangles or not, horses from your yard should not be coming and going to competitions. At competitions you can take simple steps to help protect your horse. Make sure you take your own buckets and hay-nets, don't let your horse meet all the other horses from the local area, when you are finished put it back on the box, don't share equipment and if you handle someone else's horse wash your hands before returning to your horse. For more information please look at our Facebook, there is a link to the AHT's website which has lots of information on the disease and how to control it.

These photos are from a yard that had an outbreak of strangles last year. The staff followed the HBLB guidelines and the yard is now strangles free. All new horses arriving on the yard are tested for strangles prior to introduction to the herd.



## A note on insurance

Recently we had a case where an insurance company tried to refuse to cover a claim for a horse that was injured during turnout. The horse had been turned out in a field with wire fencing at the time of injury. When the owner checked her policy it did not cover injuries caused by fencing other than post and rail. As most of the fencing in Ayrshire is not post and rail please check your policy closely to make sure you have adequate cover, read the small print!



## Weight Matters

As we get towards the end of the summer there are a few rather portly looking equines in the area. With our lovely weather there is still plenty of grass around. Overweight ponies are at increased risk of laminitis.

We have recently purchased a set of portable weighing scales. Our head nurse Marion is available to give help and advice on weight management in your horse, pony or even donkey (these can take a little persuasion when it comes to getting them on the scales). We realize

It is important to have an accurate weight for your horse not just for weight control but also for accurate dosing of wormers. We can weigh your horse for free at the clinic or yard visits can be arranged by speaking to Marion. Many of



Our groom Lynn with 'Hamish'

the cases of laminitis that we examine are preventable so please take action now.