



COVID-19 GUIDANCE UPDATE 17TH MAY 2020

Following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday 10th May and subsequent government guidelines published on Monday 11th May, including guidance on working outdoors and working from a car, the advice from the British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) has been updated. We are delighted to be able to tell you that BEVA's current advice is that NO equine veterinary procedure is "off limits". All appointments are now possible. This includes routine dentistry, Equine Health plan checks and Pre-Purchase Examinations (Vettings). This is crucial to the part we play, as vets, in supporting other equestrian businesses, such as dealers, livery yards and riding schools.

It MUST be stressed that EVERY visit/procedure is RISK ASSESSED. As per our previous guidance, we will follow the RCVS Flow Chart and BEVA risk assessment toolkits to assess safety at every appointment. Modifications to work and procedures should be maintained. Where appropriate social distancing can be maintained and risks to both COVID-19 disease transmission and physical safety of client/vet/nurse can be sufficiently mitigated, the procedure/visit will go ahead.

Risk assessments are not just to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 transmission but also to mitigate risk of injury to staff and clients. If the physical safety (such as a needle shy horse) or disease transmission risk is not deemed safe, it may be necessary for our vets to attend with a nurse/technician as an assistant.

There may be situations involving certain non-urgent and non-time sensitive cases where several members of the veterinary team would be required to work closely together in order to undertake the necessary work. In such cases, the decision to proceed or not will be based on a joint discussion involving all of the team members and the client.

We encourage our clients to watch the BEVA video series "Don't Break your Vet" to help ensure your horse is safe to handle, and also encourage you to watch the BEVA video resources "Don't Give Your Vet the Virus" to assist you with things you can do to help us.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JnwrDMsQGx0&list=PLZLor1KlzkI9X1UpvbOxwI51BNoLvcmR>

<https://www.beva.org.uk/dont-give-your-vet-the-virus>

We ask you to respect our vets' decisions, and to stick to the rules of only ONE person per visit present and 2m social distancing. Maintaining the health and safety of our team, so that they can continue to provide medical care is paramount, as is your health and safety.

Please also bear with our reception team. They have also been working on a skeleton staff and, as each call requires a risk assessment, each appointment takes longer to book. Please be patient. We are doing all we can to help you and your beloved horses, ponies and donkeys.

Don't forget we are here 24/7 365 days a year, with a nurse, hospital vet/surgeon and ambulatory vet on call. You will always know a friendly face from our team in an emergency out of hours.

Please follow these guidelines:

- Where possible, horses should be tied up in a stable or safe place so the vet can work without an owner handling. If this is not possible, it will be discussed when the appointment is booked and/or subsequently with the vet.
- Please ensure all gates are opened for the vet and parking is available close by.
- If dropping your horse off at the clinic, please call outside the gates on your arrival. A stable will be ready and prepared for you, and you will be told when it is safe to come in and put your horse in the allocated stable. Please then sign the consent form left outside the stable and leave. Our nursing team will attend your horse as soon as you have left. The vet in charge of your case will phone you to discuss the findings/procedure performed.
- If you are coming to the clinic to drop off WECs or collect medications, please call the reception to arrange, and please call at the gates on arrival. Our gates will remain closed.

We hope you understand these important measures and support us to support you. We wish you and all your horses, ponies and donkeys good health. As ever, if you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in contact with us by email at: office@newhamcourtequine.co.uk or by phone on 01622 737884.

Thank you, Stay safe.

Team NCE