



Ark Vet Centre

Equine Newsletter



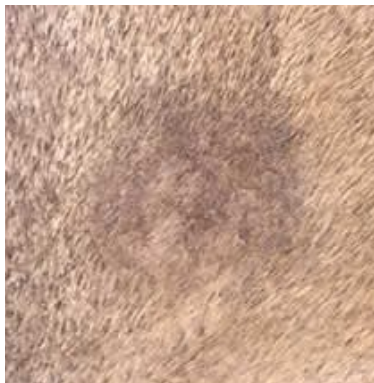
☀ July 2023 ☀

Welcome to the July newsletter, the last month has certainly been very unsettled weather wise and unfortunately we have seen a lot of laminitic cases due to the prolonged dry weather in May/June followed by the period of very wet weather we have had of late causing a flush in the grass. We have also been seeing some sarcoids on horses so thought it would be a good topic to cover in this months newsletter.

Sarcoids

Sarcoids are a form of skin tumour. There are 4 main types of sarcoid and each has a different appearance on the surface however what you see may just be the tip of an iceberg with roots of the sarcoid growing down into the deeper tissues. They can be spread by flies as they bite a sarcoid on one horse and then bite another horse transferring sarcoid cells.

Occult - Occult sarcoids usually appear as a roughly circular hairless area, or an area that has altered hair quality. The skin may feel thickened and lacks its normal elasticity. They can occur at any body site but are rare on the lower leg



region. They can easily be confused with rub marks from tack or rugs, as well as other skin conditions such as Ringworm.

Verrucous - Verrucous sarcoids usually have a grey, scaly or warty appearance. Most early verrucous sarcoids have an "occult halo". This is an area of hair loss or hair thinning around the sarcoid. The skin also lacks normal flexibility and may crack easily. Most verrucous sar-



coids are scaly with a lot of flaking and dandruff like material. Verrucous sarcoids can occur anywhere on the body but are rare on the lower leg.

Nodular - Nodular sarcoids are much easier to see and identify. They are discrete, firm, defined nodules under the skin. Nodular sarcoids are commonly located in the eyelid, armpit, inner thigh and groin. They can vary in size and you may get multiple nodules close together. They can also ulcerate



resulting in bleeding masses which attract flies.

Fibroblastic - Fibroblastic sarcoids are fleshy and aggressive in appearance. There are 2 types of these and they either have a narrow pedicle (stalk) attaching to the body or they have no pedicle and are firmly attached to the body.



These tend to be the most aggressive form and can grow quickly and ulcerate. They are common at all sites and may rapidly develop from a milder form of sarcoid. Treating fibroblastic sarcoids early is critical before they become too large or start to ulcerate.

Treatments

Sarcoids should be treated early when they are still small.

* Laser surgery is very good for lesions that are in hard to reach areas or if there are multiple lesions. However it does require a referral to a specialist.

* Ligation (banding) can only be used on certain lesions and if there is no root or stalk. It should only be attempted by vets as bands can make sarcoids more aggressive if not applied correctly or if put on inappropriate lesions.

* Liverpool cream which is the treatment we use the most as it can be done at home and is ordered in specifically for your horse. They usually get 4 or 5 treatments and it kills the sarcoid cells causing it to scab up and then just drop off usually a few weeks later.

* Occasionally other types of creams or injections may be recommended depending on the type of lesion for example sarcoids on eyelids are usually treated by BCG injections.

