



# Ark Vet Centre

## Equine Newsletter



☀ June 2023 ☀

Welcome to the June newsletter, we have had some very warm weather of late, which has meant we have seen many cases of laminitis, and some grass related colics. The ground is also so hard that we have seen a few soft tissue strains due to either working on the hard ground or just from being out in the field, so please be mindful of this when you're out. We hope you have all been enjoying the ride outs and managing to keep cool in this weather!

### Filtabac

Certain batches of Filtabac cream have been recalled due to a manufacturing issue that has caused the cream to separate and become thin meaning it is ineffective and unfortunately has caused some burns to occur. We have been in touch with everyone that has purchased it from us however it is worth if you have bought it from elsewhere to check your batch number and if it is affected by the recall returning it to where you purchased it from. The batches affected are:

- 120g tubes - B64030
- 220g tubes - B64131
- 500g Pots - B64028 & B64130



### Managing Horses in the Heat

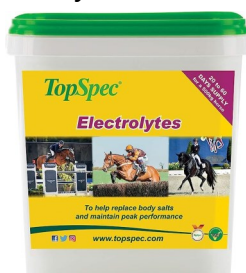
Due to the warm weather we have had recently we will be discussing ways to help your horse cope with the heat.

#### Water & Electrolytes

Horses water intake increases considerably during hot weather so ensure plenty of fresh drinking water is available and make sure if you are travelling to stop regularly to offer them a drink. If your horse is not a good drinker consider adding apple juice or molasses to the water to encourage drinking.

Electrolytes are minerals that help to preserve the correct

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balance of fluids in the body's cells and are also involved in muscle function. They are lost daily through sweating and in urine and faeces and these losses will increase significantly when exercising especially in hot weather. Deficiencies can cause dehydration, impaired performance and can cause horses to tie up. Adding an electrolyte supplement will encourage drinking and also correct any imbalances. You should also allow access to a salt block.

#### Exercise, travel and competing

Horses should not be worked at the hottest part of the day. The same applies when travelling as lorries and boxes can quickly become overheated. At competitions allow shorter warm ups and be prepared that they will tire more quickly.

#### Cooling

Use plenty of cold water to cool horses down either with the hosepipe or sponges and buckets. The water does not need to be scraped off for it to be effective particularly in those that are showing signs of heat stroke or exhaustion it is more important to continuously apply cold water. It is also better if they can be walked for short periods until they've cooled down to prevent muscle spasms



#### Heat Stroke

When horses are worked in excessively hot or humid conditions body temperature can rise dangerously due to heat production from muscles, insufficient heat loss, and excessive loss of fluids and electrolytes.

**Clinical signs** of heat stroke are heavy breathing, rapid heart rate, rectal temperature above 39.8°C, excessive sweating, lethargy, stumbling or going down, muscle spasms, dark urine, and collapse. If your horse displays any of these signs it is important to use aggressive cooling methods to reduce their temperature and phone a vet as sometimes IV fluids are necessary.

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