



Ark Vet Centre

Equine Newsletter



June 2025



Welcome to the June Newsletter. With the mild winter and the recent warmer weather we have been seeing a lot of ticks on all of our animals.

What are Ticks?

Ticks are parasites that attach themselves to both animals and people and grow in size as they engorge themselves on the animals blood. They then fall off and often lay further eggs leading to more ticks hatching.

Rarely does a few tick bites cause a problem but it is important to note that some ticks may carry illnesses or infections such as Lyme Disease, Babesiosis and Anaplasmosis. These can be very serious illnesses in our horses and can lead to death if untreated. Symptoms of these diseases include high temperature, weight loss, inappetence, lameness/pain and sometimes neurological symptoms such as looking wobbly. They may also be anaemic when we run bloods.

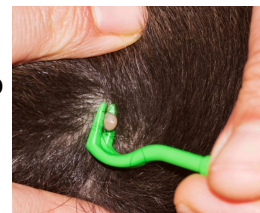
Less seriously ticks can cause secondary skin infections and can even cause anaemia in very heavy infestations.

Different types of ticks like to feed on different areas of your horse so it is important to be checking your horse over every day especially in the ears, groin area, under the tail and armpits.



What to do if you spot a tick on your horse:

- Ticks should be removed as soon as possible
- Use a tick remover to gently remove the tick
- Clean the area
- Keep an eye on the area that the tick has been as some horses can have reactions
- If a horse has a very heavy infestation or if the area becomes hot or swollen then contact us as the horse may need further treatment



Prevention of ticks

There are a number of products that we use to help control ticks in our horses. Many fly repellents may help reduce the number of ticks attaching however in areas with high tick numbers a spot-on product may be required. Unfortunately there is no licenced spot-on for horses however we can safely use some cattle products.

The product of choice we tend to use is Spotinor which is a 10ml dose applied over the back of the horse. It can be used every 6 weeks as required over the summer period.

