



# Ark Vet Centre

## Equine Newsletter



❄️ January 2026 ❄️

Happy New Year and welcome to the January newsletter. We hope you all had a good time over the festive period and as we look ahead to 2026 we will cover a vaccine update, and a reminder on sweet itch and worming in this months newsletter.

### Vaccination Rules 2026



Horses and ponies competing in British Eventing (BE) national competitions will no longer need to have a six-monthly flu vaccination, as the organisation moves back to annual boosters. The move brings BE in line with other British governing bodies including British Showjumping (BS), British Dressage (BD) and British Riding Clubs, which all require 12-month boosters.

For those competing in international competitions and/or stabling in FEI stables, six-monthly vaccinations still apply under FEI rules; a booster must have been given no more than six months and 21 days prior to competing. A vaccination should not have been given within seven days of the competition or entry into FEI stables. It is also now mandatory that these vaccinations given to FEI competing horses are submitted via the app.



### Worming



A reminder that now we've had a few days of cold and frosty weather this is the perfect time to dose your horses with a winter wormer (if you have not done so already). If you are doing tapeworm saliva tests and know your horse does not need covered against tapeworm or you have already covered your horse against tapeworm in the autumn then an Equest to treat encysted redworm is sufficient.

[www.arkvetcentre.co.uk](http://www.arkvetcentre.co.uk)

If you are not doing tapeworm saliva tests then an Equest Pramox should be given to cover all worm types.



This is particularly important in horses that have had a high egg count at some point in the last 12 months as even if you wormed them at the time they are still at risk of having encysted redworm. If you need any worming advice do not hesitate to get in touch with us.



### Sweet Itch Vaccine

As we look towards the spring and summer months now's the time to be thinking of preparing for midge/fly control especially in your sweet itch prone horses. Ensuring you have fly rugs ready for when the season starts is important as preventing the bites is the most important control mechanism. In recent years we have been using the insol (ringworm) vaccine in sweet itch prone horses. We use a 3 injection protocol given every 2 weeks before the start of the midge season. We have had an increased uptake in people using it year on year and so if you are interested now is the time to get in touch with us to get your name on the list ready for us to place an order. The vaccine is not licensed in horses and has to be bought in from abroad so we do need plenty of notice to get it ordered in for you. We have found that around 1/3 of people feel it makes no difference to their horses symptoms, 1/3 say it reduces but does not eliminate symptoms and 1/3 say it has a huge beneficial effect with symptoms almost gone entirely. The effect does seem to depend on how severe your horse is affected and we still recommend rugging and other fly control measures but if you really struggle with a sweet itch prone horse it may be worth giving it a try to see if it can alleviate some of their symptoms.



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