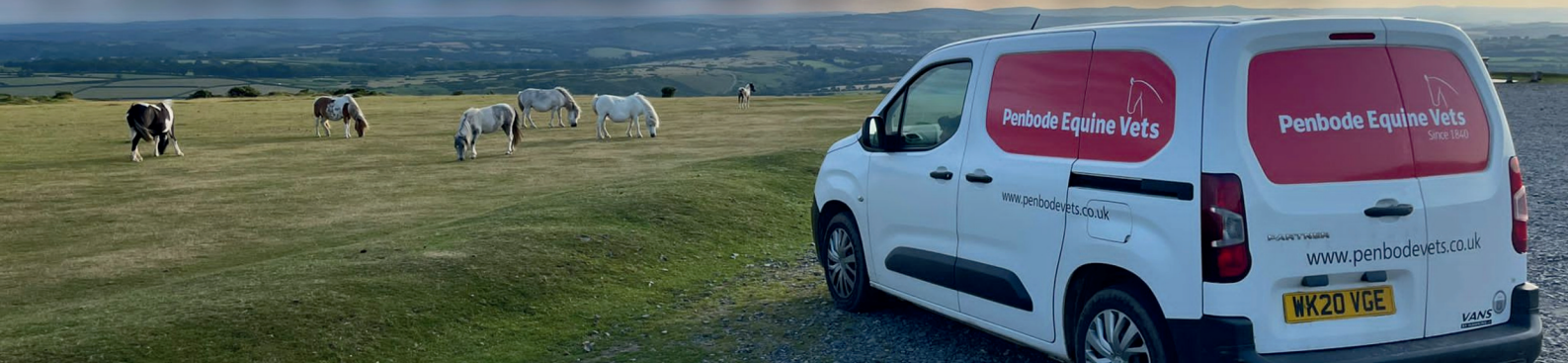


Spring 2025 Newsletter

www.penbodevets.co.uk/equine



Meet The Vet Team



David Rowlands

Clinical Director, Veterinary Surgeon
BVSc Cert EM(Stud Med) MRCVS

David graduated from Liverpool University in 1997 and worked in equine referral practices in Ireland, New Zealand and Newmarket before returning to the West Country to establish a dedicated equine department at Penbode in 2005. When not working, he can be found on the pony club circuit with his daughter Emma or on the side-line at Morwenstow AFC supporting his son Ben. He officiated at the London 2012 Olympics as well as annually at Badminton and Burghley, and also is a holder of the RCVS certificate in equine stud medicine.

Hermione Jane

Clinical Director, Veterinary Surgeon
BSc (Hons) BVM&S certAVP(ED) MRCVS

Hermione graduated from Edinburgh University and returned to the area to join Penbode Equine in 2012. In her spare time, Hermione enjoys working her Springer Spaniels and Labrador, paddle boarding and riding her horse, Joey. Her particular areas of interest are lameness, dentistry and reproduction work, but enjoys the variety she gets at Penbode.



Charly Mould

Clinical Director, Veterinary Surgeon
BVSc MRCVS

Charly spent time seeing practice at Penbode Equine as a student and then joined the team after graduating from Bristol University in 2020. She then went on to complete an internship in equine reproduction and equine sports medicine at a practice in the Cotswolds. Since returning to Penbode Equine, Charly has been enjoying catching up with our clients and their horses and ponies! She enjoys all aspects of equine practice but has a particular interest in endocrine disease and care of the older patients. Outside of work Charly is kept busy riding her own horse as well as surfing in the summer and playing rugby in the winter.





Jeremy Hyde

Veterinary Surgeon
BVetMed MRCVS

Jeremy graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London and previously owned his own practice before joining Penbode Equine in 2016. His special interests lie in the investigation and treatment of musculo-skeletal disorders. When not working with horses, he enjoys keeping fit by sea kayaking, playing tennis or exploring the moors

Dr. Keesjan Cornelisse

Veterinary Surgeon
DVM MSc PhD DipACVIM MRCVS

Keesjan graduated from Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and joined Penbode Equine in 2022. He completed a Residency in Equine Internal Medicine in the USA at Michigan State University and is an American Specialist in Equine Medicine (ACVIM). He has published in numerous popular and peer reviewed veterinary journals. Over the years he has worked in many countries in first opinion equine practice and equine referral/hospital setting. Keesjan enjoys working closely with his colleagues, his clients and their horses.



Emily Roissetter

Veterinary Surgeon
BSc (Hons) BVetMed MRCVS

Emily graduated from the Royal Veterinary College, London and joined the Penbode Equine team in 2024. She previously had a career as a veterinary nurse before going on to train to be a veterinary surgeon. Emily is a keen runner and trains with a local running club. As a veterinary nurse she really enjoyed anaesthesia and is hoping to get involved in that again within the equine surgical facilities at Penbode.

What is Equine Influenza?

We are often complacent about this disease because we expect horses to be vaccinated. However, should a major outbreak occur with a new virus strain then unvaccinated horses will suffer severe and potentially fatal disease and vaccinated horses may also be affected.

Multiple small outbreaks happen every year in the UK, and major outbreaks have occurred before and may well happen again.

There are an estimated

726,000*

horses in the UK

It is estimated that less than

50%**

of horses in the UK are vaccinated against equine flu

This virus specifically targets the respiratory system and spreads rapidly through airborne particles, direct contact and contaminated equipment, making it highly contagious. While the virus rarely causes death, it can significantly impact the health and performance of affected horses.

Vaccinating is the primary tool used to control equine influenza and plays a pivotal role in reducing the severity and spread. The vaccine stimulates the horses immune system to produce antibodies against specific strains of influenza virus. In the United Kingdom, the current influenza vaccination protocols vary depending on the equestrian discipline; it is always the responsibility of the owner to adhere to the rules of their governing body and ensure they are well within the limits to allow participation.



*BETA: The National Equestrian Survey 2023

** msd-animal-health-hub.co.uk/Healthy-Horses/health/HerdImmunity



**Ready...Set
Vaccinate!**

Protect your horse
from equine influenza

FREE VACCINATION OFFER!

During the months of March and April 2025 all horses, ponies and donkeys starting their equine influenza vaccination course will receive the 3rd vaccination (August-December)

****FREE OF CHARGE!****



**Equine influenza
is currently
circulating in the
UK, with 22 cases
reported in the last
six months
of 2024.**



**Boehringer
Ingelheim**



MSD

vetPartners

To book an appointment or for further
information, please call our reception team on:

01409 255549

**Vaccine cost only, visit fees still apply. The offer is only open to horses that are over 9 months of age and have not yet been vaccinated against equine influenza or are overdue an annual booster. First vaccination to take place in March or April 2025. The free vaccination is only for the third vaccination of the course.



Why You Should Always Have a Pre-Purchase Examination

Before buying a horse

Purchasing a horse is an exciting journey, whether you're acquiring your first equine partner or adding to your stable. However, this significant investment comes with responsibilities and potential risks. A pre-purchase examination (PPE) performed by a qualified equine vet is an essential step to ensure you're making an informed decision. Here's why a PPE is invaluable:

Assessing the horse's health and soundness

Horses are remarkable athletes, but their performance and longevity depend heavily on their physical health.

A PPE provides a thorough evaluation of the horse's:

- **General health:** The vet will examine the horse's respiratory system, cardiovascular health, eyes, skin and more to identify any underlying issues
- **Soundness:** The vet will assess the horse's movement in hand, on a lunge line and under saddle (if applicable) to look for subtle signs of discomfort or lameness
- **Orthopaedic health:** Flexion tests and diagnostic imaging (e.g., X-rays or ultrasound scans) can help uncover potential joint or bone issues

Uncovering hidden problems

Not all health issues are visible to the untrained eye. A PPE can reveal:

- **Chronic conditions:** Issues like arthritis or previous injuries that could impact the horse's performance
- **Dental problems:** These may affect the horse's ability to eat comfortably or work in a bit
- **Heart or lung abnormalities:** Subtle changes that might not affect the horse currently but could be problematic in the future

Determining suitability for your needs
Every horse is unique and a PPE helps determine if the horse is suitable for your intended use. The vet's findings will help you understand the horse's capabilities and limitations, ensuring it aligns with your goals.

Providing peace of mind Buying a horse can be emotionally driven, but a PPE helps ensure your decision is based on facts. The examination gives you a clear picture of the horse's current state and potential future needs.

Supporting negotiations The findings from a PPE can inform price discussions. For instance, if the horse has a manageable condition that requires ongoing care, this could be factored into the purchase price. Similarly, a clean bill of health can reinforce your confidence in the investment.



What's involved in a PPE? A standard PPE typically includes:

- A thorough physical examination
- Assessment of movement and lameness testing
- Flexion tests to evaluate joint health
- Diagnostic imaging (if required)
- Blood is taken to be stored and tested for medications if necessary

The scope of the examination can be tailored to your specific needs and budget. Discussing your intentions with the vet beforehand ensures the PPE is aligned with your goals.

Final Thoughts While no examination can guarantee a horse will remain problem-free, a pre-purchase examination significantly reduces the risk of unexpected surprises. It equips you with the knowledge to make a confident, informed decision and fosters a positive start to your relationship with your new equine partner.

If you're considering purchasing a horse, don't skip this crucial step.

Currently, **Jeremy and David** are performing our pre-purchase examinations at Penbode Equine. In April, Hermione will return from maternity leave, she will then be available for vettings, along with Charly who will have completed her BEVA vetting course.

Reach out to our equine veterinary team to schedule a pre-purchase examination and ensure your equine investment is a sound one.

Blossom is putting her best foot forward for 2025!

2024 was meant to be another peaceful year for **Blossom and Bilbo**, relaxing at home and enjoying all the fuss and attention that comes with being much loved family ponies, unfortunately **Blossom's foot had other ideas** and they were in for a bumpy ride!



3 months of growth, the abscess was also draining from the coronary band, and you can see this growing down her hoof wall

In February, Blossom's owners contacted the practice as Blossom had been lame on her right fore leg and this was not improving. A vet went out to visit Blossom at home and during the clinical examination it was noted that the pulse at the back of the fetlock (other wise known as a digital pulse) was much stronger in her lame right leg than it was in her sound left leg; this lead to a thorough examination on the foot with hoof testers and by using a hoof knife, pus was released from the sole.

Foot abscesses are common in the winter months, especially in horses and ponies that are not shod, as bacteria and dirt can travel up the exposed white line and set up an infection deeper in the foot. The lameness caused by a foot abscess is normally severe as the buildup of pressure caused by the body producing pus, is very painful. Most foot abscesses resolve once the pus has been released and the infection cleared. Indeed, Blossom did well for a couple of weeks after her foot abscess was drained but due to the awful winter weather and ground conditions, unfortunately her lameness returned. Where the pus had been collecting under the sole of her foot a large cavity now remained, after some careful trimming of the area, a clean probe was used to determine how deep and extensive this hole was; although the pus had been draining from the sole in front of the frog, worryingly the hole that was left was traveling towards the tip of the pedal bone. Blossom received further pain relief and was booked in for x-rays to evaluate the risk to the pedal bone.

Digital x-ray is a fantastic diagnostic tool for looking at bony structures, especially in the foot. Our x-ray kit is battery powered which means we're able to take x-rays and evaluate the images even when there is no electricity. Blossom had her x-rays in the comfort of her own home, with her friend Bilbo reassuring her from the other side of the gate! The images showed the extent of damage done by the infection and its proximity to the pedal bone, Blossom was started on a course of antibiotics and the difficult decision was made to temporarily move the two ponies to a livery yard where the conditions under foot were drier, as Blossom was going to require foot bandages and poultices for a long time.



On x-ray the abscess tract is clearly visible, close to her pedal bone, and travelling up the foot to her coronary band. Please note that Blossom has previously had laminitis, and changes related to this are also visible on x-ray.



Blossom and Bilbos new all-weather loafing area

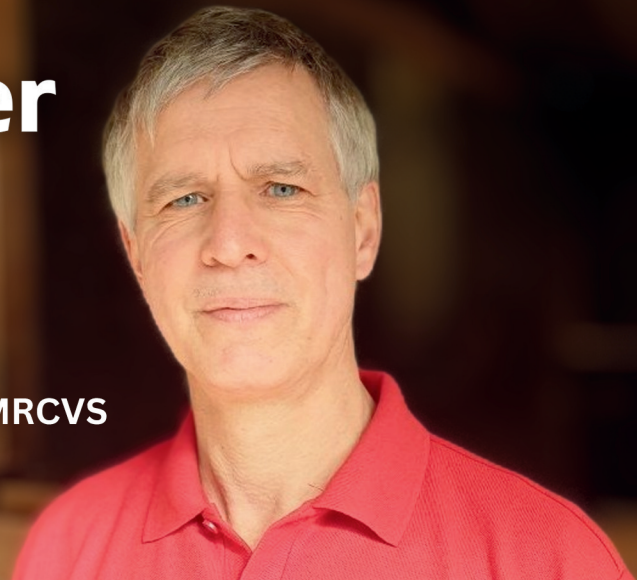
Blossom and Bilbo quickly settled into life at the new yard (next to some very tall neigh-bours) and the damage from the abscess slowly started to grow out. Unfortunately, Blossom decided she was missing her regular visits from the vet and managed to both cut her nose open and have an episode of colic all within a two week period! Luckily both of these issues could be treated on yard and Blossom quickly bounced back and her nose healed beautifully. After several months and regular phone calls between vet, owner, farrier and yard owner, Blossom and Bilbo were finally ready to return home, Charly went out to do a dental examination and treatment before their return journey and by the end of May they were back with their owners enjoying their very swanky, refurbished accommodation. Many pictures of hooves, noses and droppings were exchanged in 2024, so we were delighted with we finally received photos of the two ponies relaxing back at home. Blossom's road to recovery wouldn't have been possible without her dedicated owners and we thank them for letting us share her success story.

Charly visited the ponies for their annual vaccines over the winter, Blossom's foot continues to do well and both ponies and owners are enjoying their mud free loafing area, an investment for many wet winters to come! We hope Blossom has a smoother ride in 2025 but as always, we will be here when she need us.



Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS; Gastric ulcers)

By Dr. CJ Cornelisse DVM MS PhD Dipl.ACVM MRCVS
American Specialist in Equine Medicine



Equine Gastric Ulcer Syndrome (EGUS; Gastric ulcers) are not uncommon and can affect your horse's performance. Classical signs include your horse may be not thriving as well (not gaining weight, rougher coat), appearing sensitive over the girth area when brushing or tightening the saddle girth or more difficult to ride (not going forward, bucking). Some horses can also display some defensive or biting behaviour. Diet (lack of regular roughage or grazing time) and increased stress (moving livery, going up in competition level with more travel) are some of the implicated factors.

Although addressing these causes or giving acid binding oral supplements may help improve the clinical signs usually established gastric ulcer need stronger medical intervention with acid suppressors and drugs that help with gastric mucosal healing. To diagnose gastric ulcers, including the deeper outflow area of the stomach (called the pyloric antrum) and the duodenum (first part of the small intestine) a special very long endoscope (3-meter or longer) is needed to visualize the condition. This gastroscope is passed through the nose into the oesophagus and then advanced into the stomach of a sedated horse. On the larger monitor it is then easy for the vets and clients to see what the stomach and its deeper parts look like inside.

Confirmed gastric ulcers can then be treated with a variety of medications in conjunction with possible management changes. EGUS in the deeper regions often need more aggressive and longer term treatment.



Spumous mucosal ulcers



Servery inflamed glandular mucosal fold



Penbode Equine Vets Gastroscope Clinic



Gastroscope examination of
the horse's stomach run by
Keesjan Cornelisse DVM, MS,
PhD, Dipl.ACVIM, MRCVS
American Specialist in Equine
Internal Medicine

Tuesday 4th March

At our Holsworthy clinic

Offered at **£300** to include sedation.

Keep an eye out for future dates

Please call
01409 255549
to book

