

Summer 2025 Newsletter

www.penbodevets.co.uk/equine



A year at Penbode

By Emily Roissetter

BSc (Hons) BVetMed MRCVS



Hello! For those who haven't met me yet I am Emily, and I have been working at Penbode Equine for almost a year. I graduated from the Royal Veterinary College in 2024 and returned to the South West to start my career as an Equine Vet. Prior to studying at Vet School I qualified as a Veterinary Nurse and worked in small animal practice for 6 years. I have also spent 2 summers in South Africa working alongside wildlife vets, treating more of the undomesticated species!

At Penbode, working in first opinion practice, means we are often the first port of call for owners and therefore see a large variety of cases, from lumps and bumps to inappetence and lameness, and everything in between. Due to this large variety there are no two days the same and you have to be prepared for anything.

From my small animal nursing days working in busy emergency departments I have been able to continue to get my emergency medicine fix by being a part of the out of hours team at Penbode. We are all aware that horses can't tell the difference between a Wednesday afternoon and a Sunday morning, so knowing that I can help owners and their beloved horses in their time of need is very fulfilling.





I enjoy all aspects of equine medicine, however I have found myself particularly interested in reproduction/stud medicine and surgery. I hope that I will be able to continue to develop my interest and knowledge in these areas. We are extremely fortunate to have our own surgical facilities and lameness work-up provisions at Holsworthy. This allows us to carry out procedures and investigations to a high standard on site.

Since becoming part of the Penbode Team I have enjoyed travelling around the area and meeting you all and your horses, ponies and occasional donkey. And in the nicest possible way, hopefully I don't see any of you too soon, unless it's for an annual vaccination or dental!



Emily Roissetter
BSc (Hons) BVetMed MRCVS

WHAT.3.WORDS

Help us help you!

Whether you are hidden in a village or in the middle of the moor, please consider sending us in a what 3 words for your horse's location.

This helps the vets find you, particularly if the postcode is not ideal for finding your location and ensures they get to you as quickly as possible without any delays.

Simply download the app for free and when at your horse's location, click the locate button and this will give you a 3 word code which you can send in to us via email and we will add it to your records.

<https://what3words.com>

Holsworthy.equine@penbodevets.co.uk



Area Days

Your discounted area day visits.



Monday

North Cornwall, Bodmin Moor, Bude and west along the A30

Tuesday

Hartland, Bideford, Bradworthy, Yelverton

Wednesday

Torrington, Barnstaple, Chulmleigh, Liskeard, Saltash, Callington, South Bodmin Moor

Thursday

North Dartmoor, Okehampton and east along the A30

An update on: Testing around Worming

By Charly Mould
BVSc MRCVS



It's been fantastic to see so many of our clients engaging with our worm control program this year. As horse owners and vets we all have a responsibility not to give our horses a wormer unless it is truly needed. We know the over use of wormers is a leading cause of anthelmintic resistance but what does this actually mean?

Anthelmintics are the drugs in the wormer used to treat an internal parasite burden, there are currently five separate drugs that can be used in horses: fenbendazole, pyrantel, ivermectin, moxidectin and praziquantel. In recent years there has been an increase in the resistance to these drugs, this means that when they are given at the correct dose to treat a parasite, not all of those parasites die, instead they remain inside the horse. These worms have adapted ways to resist the action of the drug and then pass these resistance genes into their eggs, which in turn develop into larvae on the pasture to re-infect the horse with more wormer resistant parasites.

"The more frequently we give our horse a wormer the more frequently we are selecting for resistant worms"



How do we know if the worms are resistant?

Doing a faecal egg count reduction test is an easy way to monitor for resistance. If your horse has a high faecal egg count (over 250 eggs per gram) and giving a wormer is advised, then we recommend you take another faecal sample two weeks after the wormer has been administered. We use the two results to calculate the percentage decrease in egg production. If the wormer has not been as effective at reducing the worm count as it should have been, then this is indicative of resistant worms. If we do find evidence of resistance, we can then work with you on ways to tackle this, including both management factors and changing to a different class of wormer. We are pleased to be able to offer the post-worming faecal egg count at a reduced rate to make tackling resistance as affordable as possible.

What about tapeworms?

We do occasionally see tapeworm eggs in a faecal egg counts, but due to the intermittent shedding of eggs by the tapeworms, using this method alone is not a reliable way to identify a tapeworm burden. Thankfully, in the last couple of years, new methods of tapeworm testing have been developed. Antibody testing looks at the horse's immune response to tapeworms; when there are tapeworms in the gut, the horse's immune system recognises them as parasites and starts producing antibodies to fight them. These antibodies can be measured in either a blood or saliva sample, with high levels indicative of significant tapeworm burdens.

A saliva sample can be collected from the horse by you, at home, with an easy to use EquiSal swab. Tapeworm saliva testing is included in our worm control scheme this year, but we can also provide you with saliva test kits separately to the scheme if required. We recommend waiting six months since the horse last had a tapeworm treatment or test before collecting the saliva sample.

It is often useful to take a faecal egg count sample at the same time as a tapeworm test. If the results from the two tests show that your horse requires treatment for more than one type of worm, then we can recommend you a wormer that is effective for all the identified parasites, preventing you from needing to give separate treatments and saving you money in the process!

From Mane to Meadow: Summer Snapshots

Thank you to everyone who sent us their summer photos for our cover photo competition. We have enjoyed seeing all our client's lovely adventures and memories, and hope that you enjoy them too.

Please keep an eye out on our social media pages for the opportunity to feature on the front cover of our Autumn Newsletter!





A photograph of a rider on a brown horse jumping over a wooden fence. The rider is wearing a white shirt, a black helmet with a white stripe, and black gloves. The horse is in mid-air, clearing the fence. The background is a blurred green field.

Caring for Your Horse in Hot Weather

Tips for travelling and competing

Horses are athletes that require special care, especially in hot weather, to perform at their best and avoid health risks. Here are some key tips for caring for your competition horse in hot conditions:

Hydration is key

Ensure your horse has access to fresh water at all times. Dehydration can lead to a range of issues, including poor performance and heat stress. Offer water regularly and always carry water with you in a vehicle, especially if you're in a remote location.

Traveling with your horse

Before hitting the road for the competition, make sure your horse is well-prepared for travel. Plan for breaks during long trips so that your horse can stretch its legs and hydrate. Ensure the transport vehicle is well-ventilated and kept at a comfortable temperature.

Provide shade and cooling areas

When your horse isn't competing, make sure it is in a shaded area. This will help regulate body temperature.

Monitor for signs of heat stress

Heat stress can be dangerous for your horse. Watch for signs such as excessive sweating, rapid or laboured breathing, and lethargy. If you notice any of these, take immediate action by moving the horse to a cooler area and offering water. If symptoms persist, contact your vet for advice.

Caring for Your Horse in Hot Weather

Be mindful of feeding

Hot weather can affect your horse's appetite, but feeding is still important. Offer smaller, more frequent meals rather than large ones, and make sure the hay is not dusty, as dry, dusty hay can contribute to respiratory issues.

Rest and recovery

During a show, remember that rest is essential for recovery. Allow your horse enough downtime between events so that they can recover from physical exertion. A relaxed, comfortable horse is more likely to perform well.

Grooming and cooling after exercise

After a workout or competition, make sure to cool your horse down slowly. Begin by walking them for at least 10-15 minutes. Follow this with a good grooming session to remove sweat and prevent skin irritation. Consider using a cool wash-down with water and sponging down the legs and body, particularly the areas that sweat heavily, like the neck and chest.

By applying these details, you can help ensure that your horse stays cool, hydrated and comfortable. This not only enhances their performance but also helps keeps them healthy and safe throughout the competition season.



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Surgery at Penbode Equine Vets

Did you know that Penbode Equine is fully equipped to perform elective surgical treatments on horses, ponies and donkeys?

