



## AT LAST - IT HAS ARRIVED - A VACCINE AGAINST STRANGLES

I am sure that all horse owners in the New Forest know that strangles is endemic in this area - both in the "wild" ponies and also in "owned" horses and ponies. Most horses which have been in this area for a few years are immune, but foals and any horses new to the area are highly susceptible and we recommend that they should be vaccinated, at least for their first year.

In high risk areas like the New Forest, the manufacturer's recommendation is to vaccinate every three months, or in some cases every six months. There are very few side effects but as with all other vaccinations, we recommend that you do light exercise for about five days after the injection. The injection is made into the inside of the lip - usually a very easy place to access. It looks as if this will be a very effective vaccine which has been produced by Intervet after extensive research.

This vaccine might also be useful for horses that are competing regularly especially if you have qualified for the Horse of the Year Show and don't want to risk missing out because your horse is ill.

If you would like to know more about the new Intervet strangles vaccine please contact Jill or Joanna in reception at Midforest Veterinary Practice on 023 8028 2358 and they will get one of the vets to give you a call.

## FOALS

A few reminders for those of you who have brood mares - was the mare vaccinated before the foal was born? If she was, the foal should be immune to tetanus for the first 3 months of its life. After this we start vaccinations and for the first time ever we shall be able to vaccinate

against strangles (see above), as well as flu and tetanus. Don't forget - the rules on vaccination are different for orphan foals - and they are far more susceptible to infections. Orphan foals often have behavioural problems as well and we are happy to advise on the prevention and treatment of these. We also offer a post-foaling check for the mare and foal. One final word of advice - insure your foal for vet's fees as soon as it is born - young animals are very prone to injuries and this should also cover you for any limb deformities that appear in the first few months which usually need treatment straight away.