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In this issue:

Feedback from the Belle Equine Meeting |

Feedback from the Belle Equine Meeting - contd 2

Feedback from the Belle Equine Meeting Maidstone Thursday 29th November 2007

An invitation was extended to a number of dentists in the South east to attend a meeting hosted by Belle Equine Vets. The meeting was prefaced with two presentations from Professor Paddy Dixon; one presentation, entitled "Do we obey the rules of dentistry?", questioned most of the commonly accepted practises in equine dentistry today and the other presentation was on cheek teeth fractures.



However, the main reason for the meeting came at the end of the evening when Rob Pascoe, a veterinarian at Belle Equine, unveiled a process he has devised which he would like all dentists working with their practise to follow.

The process requires the Equine Dental Technician to make an examination of the horse and then to fax a report of the examination to the practise. Belle Equine would then like the veterinarian to take the lead on the process. The vet would attend with the Equine Dental Technician and would make their own examination to agree the dental work to be carried out and then a further examination to ensure a successful sedation. The vet would remain on site and would have the

opportunity to stop the procedure at any stage, if they wished.

Rob Pascoe stated that this process was being instigated at the request of their insurance company; requiring them to be accountable for the process in line with their policy. Belle Equine had also invited other local practises to the evening and offered a copy of the process to them if they wanted to review or implement it.

Rob Pascoe, on behalf of Belle Equine, also suggested that the only Equine Dental Technicians that they would agree to have involved in the process would be those that had successfully completed the DEFRA/RCVS approved Level 2 Exemption examination.

It is very difficult to understand why the insurance company and the veterinarians are under the impression that they need to take responsibility for the process based on the fact that they administer the sedative. As was pointed out, veterinarians sedate for clipping purposes and yet will walk away from the animal following the administering of the sedative. Veterinarians do not wish to remain and take responsibility for the clipping process, even though it would be very easy for an accident to happen to the horse. The person performing the clipping would be using electronic apparatus and yet usually would not have been trained in techniques of working with electrics, as are WWAED dentists.

Providing an equine dentist has insurance to cover their work, then there is very little substance in the claims of the insurance company or Belle Equine. The veterinarians also acknowledged that there would be difficulty in justifying their charges to the customer for remaining throughout the process. They did intimate that there might be an opportunity to suggest to the customer that costs could be reduced if the veterinarian performed the dentistry procedure, thereby omitting the equine dentist from the process. This would obviously be an unprofessional approach and we would not expect all veterinarians to go down that route, however, it is worthwhile bearing in mind that this could happen.



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ADVANCING A PROFESSION.



Feedback from the Bell Equine Meeting Maidstone Thursday 29th November 2007 – continued

Another question that was asked of Rob Pascoe was “What would be the reaction from the veterinarian if a client requested the veterinarian to sedate their horse so that their dentist could perform a dental procedure?” Rob passed this on to his boss, David Sinclair, as he was not 100% certain of the practise position. David said that if a client requested the veterinarian to sedate for a dentist, it would be rude and unprofessional to refuse and he would be happy to agree.

One of the things that was blindingly obvious, from events on the evening and events before and since is that veterinarians are not aware of the WWAED. All references to Equine Dental Technicians from the veterinarians were references to the BAEDT.

Our presence at the meeting ensured that those people who were aware of the WWAED had to explain about our association to the others present. Rob Pascoe said that, like BEVA, we were also DEFRA and RCVS approved to offer Level 2 Exemption exams and that he had worked with a couple of our members who had been very professional. Professor Paddy Dixon also said that he had received feedback from the WWAED Level 2 Exemption examinations that the performances from our dentists had been very professional.

As you will have seen from our first News Update, we are putting a Dentist Support Mechanism in place. This mechanism can be utilised should you find yourself in a situation arising from or similar to the one outlined above. We can communicate with your local vets, either by phone or in writing, to confirm your credentials and the credibility of the organisation. We have already performed this for one or two members and it has been very well received.

The website will also be utilised properly as part of the Dentist Support Mechanism and can also be helpful in this situation. We will be documenting the approach of the WWAED members on our website along with what you should and should not expect from your dentist and you can point your customers towards the website.

This meeting has identified a situation that we felt all members should be aware of and we have generated an interim news update. We will continue to do this to ensure that all members are kept up to speed with any developments in the dentistry world and you are more than welcome to call me to discuss anything that you would like some clarification on or some help with.

Website Stories

I am on the lookout for any stories, anecdotes or photographs that can be used to populate the website. It is not always obvious what makes a good story and you may often feel that your adventures are not worthy of being published, but they could make interesting reading for current and potential clients.

Also, if you have any interesting problems with a horse, photographs would be great, but a few words describing the problem would be really useful. I know that sometimes it might seem like a pain to have to turn to and write something, but this is the best way that we can get data to grow the site and in turn, the website will be beneficial to your business because it will interface with your customers when you are not visiting them. You can email them to me or you can send them through the normal postal service.

Thanks in advance

Steve