A RETROSPECTIVE CASE SERIES OF THE INCIDENCE, TREATMENT AND OUTCOME OF EQUINE WOUNDS SEEN IN OUT-OF-HOURS PRIMARY CARE EQUINE PRACTICE IN THE UK

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Reasons for performing study: Wounds are a common reason for out-of-hours call outs in equine practice. There is currently a lack of evidence on the types of wound, treatments commonly used and the associated outcomes.

Objectives: To describe the incidence of different types of wounds seen in out-of-hours equine veterinary practice, their treatments and outcomes.

Study design: Retrospective case series.

Methods: Clinical data were reviewed from horses seen as out-of-hours primary care emergencies for wounds at two equine veterinary practices between 2011 and 2013. Wounds were categorised according to location and type. The incidence of different types of wounds, and the case presentation, treatment and outcome were analysed. Fisher’s exact test was used to determine whether breed, degree of lameness and concurrent conditions were associated with outcome.

Results: Data was retrieved from 481 cases. ‘Simple wounds’ were the most common (n = 292), particularly involving the distal limb (n = 128). Simple wounds consisted of wounds that were not chronic, synovial, a foot penetration, or involving the head, neck or body. Synovial wounds had the highest proportion of complicated outcomes (82%, n = 14 of 17). There was a significant relationship between severity of lameness and outcome (P = 0.0003). Clinicians did not routinely record insurance status (34%, n = 164), descriptive wound location (58%, n = 280), cause (43%, n = 211) or lameness score (22%, n = 110). Based on this, and current veterinary and medical literature, a recording proforma for wound cases was created.

Conclusions: This first study of the incidence, treatments and outcome of wounds seen out of hours in UK equine practice highlighted that the majority of cases were simple limb wounds. Degree of lameness was significantly associated with outcome, and should be considered an important component of case recording. The use of a proforma may improve clinical recording within practice and assist with prospective clinical studies.

Ethical animal research: The study was approved by the Ethics Committee, School of Veterinary Medicine and Science, University of Nottingham. Explicit owner consent was not stated. Source of funding: A.B.’s PhD is funded by the School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. Competing interests: None declared.

VETERINARY INTERACTIONS: CONSIDERING THE EQUINE PERSPECTIVE

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Reasons for performing study: Equine well-being encompasses psychological and physical aspects and should be considered during veterinary interactions. Low-stress handling strategies facilitate positive encounters, in turn minimising injury to both animal and veterinarian. Factors to consider during each interaction include an understanding of the species, the individual animal and the handler’s approach.

Objectives: The aim of this preliminary study was to explore the handling approaches of veterinarians, and vets in training, when interacting with horses.

Study design: Qualitative analysis of practical handling and interviews.

Methods: The study was guided by research questions relating to the considerations participants make during equine interactions, and what resources and training informs their approach. Twelve veterinary students (three male, nine female) and two female equine clinicians from Nottingham Vet School were each videoed interacting with a horse. This was followed by semi-structured interviews with participants including review of the video footage. Interviews were thematically analysed.

Results: Themes discussed included equine perception and emotional state, experiences of handling and restraint methods, awareness of species ethology, knowledge of the individual, safety and reflection on practice. Participants varied in their awareness and application of evidence-based research. Presenting videos during interviews provided a unique perspective from which participants reflected on their handling approaches.

Conclusions: Variation in knowledge of equine ethology and perception, and consequently its practical application, highlights the necessity to include this training in veterinary curricula. This training should be supported by incorporating the evolving evidence-based literature into handling strategies. The development of handling skills can be further enhanced by the use of video that provides a powerful tool to facilitate reflective practice. Potential benefits include minimising the incidence of horse-related injuries, improving the animal’s welfare and enhancing the human–animal bond.

Ethical animal research: The study was approved by the University of Nottingham, School of Veterinary Medicine and Science research and ethics committee. Participants provided informed consent. Source of funding: University of Nottingham, School of Veterinary Medicine and Science. Competing interests: None declared.

SEROPREVALENCE AND RISK FACTORS FOR INFECTION WITH EQUINE CORONAVIRUS IN HEALTHY HORSES IN THE USA

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Reasons for performing study: Equine coronavirus (ECoV) is considered an enteric pathogen of foals and has only recently been