



www.tworiversvets.co.uk

BIGGAR SURGERY

157 High Street, Biggar
ML12 6DL
01899 220073

Biggar opening hours

Mon 8.30am - 7.00pm
Tues - Fri 8.30am - 6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 12noon

Biggar consultations

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 10.30am
Mon 2.00pm - 7.00pm
Tues - Fri 2.00pm - 6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am - 11.00am

PEEBLES SURGERY

15 Old Town, Peebles
EH45 8JF
01721 722879

Peebles opening hours

Mon - Fri 8.30am - 6.00pm
Wed 8.30am - 7.00pm
Saturday 10.00am - 12.30pm

Peebles consultations

Mon - Fri 9.00am - 10.30am
Mon - Fri 2.00pm - 6.00pm
Wed 2.00pm - 7.00pm
Saturday 10.00am - 12noon

24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE

for registered clients
(call Biggar or Peebles)



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NEWSLETTER March 2021

Two Rivers Team Update

This month we see both Claire and Danielle heading off on maternity leave - Claire is due her first baby in March, and Danielle is due her third in April. We would like to wish them all the best, and look forward to some baby news!



We have a new vet starting from the beginning of March, Beth Shaw, who will be covering Claire's



maternity leave. Beth graduated from the 'Dick Vet' last year and has been working at a mixed practice in her Yorkshire homeland since then. Despite being a bit of a self-confessed townie, she has been persuaded by her locally produced significant other that the Scottish Borders is the place to be! Beth enjoys all aspects of mixed practice, but has a particular interest in all things equine and a growing interest in small animal dentistry.

We are also delighted to welcome Kirsty Cross to our reception team in Biggar. Kirsty has worked with us before as a student vet nurse with a place at Barony SRUC. Unfortunately, ill health prevented her continuing her course at that time, and so she has come to help us out on reception. She plans to follow her dream of becoming an RVN eventually as animals are her life-long passion, particularly her Shetland ponies and bantam hens.



You might also be seeing a bit more of vet Iain Butt over the next few months, as he provides additional consulting sessions while Danielle is on maternity leave. Iain needs no introduction as he already does a fantastic job almost every Saturday morning in Biggar.

We also have Tom Beeston providing cover for some weekends on call over the next few months. Tom is a very experienced mixed practice vet who is currently undertaking a 4 year advanced training program in veterinary anaesthesia at the Dick Vet.



Covid-19 Update



We are back to providing full services for all small animal and equine work, with the exception of routine six month Pet Health Club checks where the owner has no concerns.

Our team are all wearing PPE at all times, and we ask that clients also wear a mask when coming to the surgery or when one of our vets is visiting. We can allow one person at a time into the reception in Peebles, but unfortunately Biggar is too small to allow 2m distancing and so we ask that clients kindly wait outside. We have created a small shelter in Biggar for discussions with the vet outside during inclement weather. We very much look forward to welcoming clients back into our consulting rooms.

BVRA Success!

Congratulations to our receptionists Jacqui, Mandy, Lloyd, Lori and Roberta who have all gained their British Veterinary Receptionists Association Bronze Small Animal and Equine Receptionists Award, as well as a Certificate as a Competent Veterinary Dispenser!

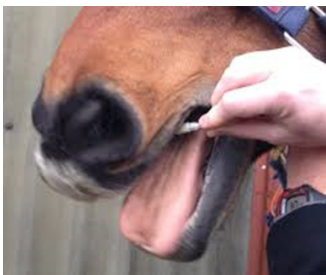
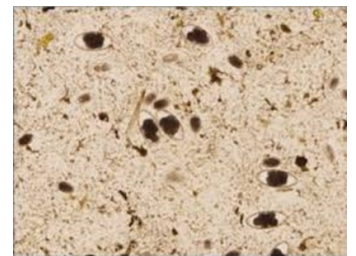


Our RVNs who also work on reception - Rachel, Katie and Hannah, also gained these qualifications, demonstrating the commitment to excellent client care from all of our team.

Worming plans for horses Danielle Crawford MRCVS

Routine worming of horses is now commonplace, to the extent that some wormers are frequently overused, leading to increased levels of resistance. To reduce our use of wormers we recommend all horses have a bespoke worming plan, as each horse's risk of worm burdens differ greatly based on a variety of factors including age and management.

During the summer months we are happy to assess each individual horse's need for worming based on faecal worm egg counts. These detect eggs and larvae of the most common types of worm, that are readily treated by a variety of wormers.



The requirement for worming against tapeworm can be assessed through a saliva or blood test. We can class horses as low or high risk depending on how they are managed, but an annual test helps determine if worming is required.

Testing for small redworm is now available from a blood sample. We have a few options for treatment of these worms, usually given during the winter months to prevent mass emergence of these worms in spring. FWECs must be done prior to testing to assess the horses suitability for the test.

Why do we worry about worming horses in the first place? Many studies have shown increased rate of colic in horses with inappropriate worming programmes, whether that be failure to treat encysted small redworms or missed tapeworm treatments in high risk horses.



However, research into dung beetle populations have shown how they are affected by the wormers we use, by having detrimental effects on pasture health and soil CO₂ capture. Unfortunately it's not possible to generate a generic worming plan that is suitable for any horse without worming some unnecessarily. We would encourage owners to seek our advice regarding worming. Tests are quick and easy to perform - FWECs require a sample of faeces handed into the surgery, and tapeworm testing can be performed with a saliva test done at home or a blood sample taken by the vet along with the small redworm test.