



**April 2018**

### **Wendover Heights Equine Support Welfare Charity Project**

Our equine Vets Rachel Harrison-Osborne and Marie Clare Bal volunteered their time and expertise to help with an equine healthcare and castration day in Ardingly earlier this month. The event is one of a series organised by leading equine charities to help improve equine health and welfare in the UK.

The British Horse Society has combined forces with British Equine Veterinary Association (BEVA) Trust, Bransby, Redwings Horse Sanctuary, The Donkey Sanctuary, RSPCA, and World Horse Welfare to run the series of healthcare and castration clinics to help confront the huge indiscriminate breeding problem that the UK currently faces. The scheme aims to reduce accidental breeding, improve welfare, help with identification and traceability of horses and enable new groups of horse owners to engage with veterinary care.

Rachel and Marie Claire were one of seven vets who volunteered via the British Equine Veterinary Association's (BEVA) charitable Trust to work alongside volunteers from other charities. Suitable horses were identified and recruited from the surrounding area by charity welfare officers and our Vets plus their veterinary surgeon colleagues castrated 32 colts and stallions. In total, 65 horses were wormed as needed, microchipped and passported. Some horses also received dental treatment from Rachel Harrison-Osborne.

These events not only reduce the opportunity for unintentional breeding but, more importantly, have also proven to be a great way of getting new groups of horse owners engaged with veterinary care. Wendover Heights Equine is proud to have supported the clinic, via the BEVA Trust, to help such a worthwhile and well-organised initiative.

The BEVA Trust is the British Equine Veterinary Association's philanthropic arm and was established almost 50 years ago. Historically the bulk of its expenditure was small grants relating to travel and education but following a review last year the Trust's focus has changed. BEVA members expressed a desire for the Trust to focus on voluntary veterinary participation in charitable welfare projects.

Further equine healthcare and castration clinics will be run at various venues around the UK during the spring and autumn. The project is supported by Zoetis, the Animal Health company who are providing wormers and Shires who are supplying horse care items including head collars, hoof picks and brushes. Well done all involved!





