

Equine stem cell therapy guarantee

VetCell has launched a guarantee for its stem cell therapy, StemRegen, in treating superficial digital flexor tendon injuries in horses. Under the 'VetCell Plus Promise' the company says it will refund the original cost of treatment or resupply the stem cells for retreatment at no extra cost, should a horse reinjure itself following treatment.

The treatment comprises a number of processes. The stem cells for use in the treatment are extracted from the horse's sternum or tuber coxae while it is in standing sedation. The cells are packaged and couriered to VetCell's laboratory partner Biobest where the stem cells are extracted and cultured. This takes on average 18 days. The cultured cells are suspended in bone marrow supernatant and returned to the veterinary surgeon who implants them directly into the lesion using ultrasound direction. The horse then undergoes a strictly controlled rehabilitation programme for approximately one year. Increases in workload should only occur following ultrasound scan and confirmation from the vet at three-monthly intervals to encourage a full return to fitness.

As a result of recent research the company says it is 'confident that VetCell's stem cell treatment, StemRegen, is currently the best way to treat an overstrain injury of the superficial digital flexor tendon.'

Roger Smith, of the Royal Veterinary College, explained further. 'We have been able to show that VetCell-treated horses have



approximately half the risk of reinjury compared with horses treated with other techniques. The quality of this data means that we are confident that it is truly representative of the effect of the treatment and, as a result, have proposed the new VetCell Plus Promise to show our confidence in StemRegen and its capabilities.'

The company believes that the guarantee will reassure vets and clients that the treatment will work and that, if the worst happens and the horse does reinjure itself, the cost of further treatment will be covered.

For the guarantee to apply a horse that has reinjured itself must meet certain criteria, details of which, together with further information on the stem cell therapy and procedures, can be found at www.vetcell.com/the-vetcell-plus-promise.

Address: VetCell, Unit 18, Tannery Yard, Burford OX18 4DQ, telephone 01865 922227. www.vetcell.com

Puppy socialisation CD

SoundTherapy4Pets offers the Sounds Sociable CD designed to prepare puppies for the sounds they will encounter when they leave their mother for a new home.

The company notes that leaving their mother is a stressful time for puppies, which have to cope with new people, places and sounds without maternal support, as well as for owners, who want to ensure their puppy is contented and settled as quickly as possible.

The CD contains essential information on how to socialise puppies, tips and training advice on avoiding problems such as settling puppies at night, housetraining, introducing puppies to car travel, going for walks and meeting new people. It can be used to prepare puppies for their new home and to help make them comfortable once they get there.

The pack includes:

- A CD of noises, traffic, fireworks, thunder, children and applause.
- Full instructions on how to use the CD to get dogs used to the sounds.
- A booklet of useful training tips to teach dogs socialisation skills, housetraining and problem prevention.

Address: Sound Therapy 4 Pets, 10 Rushton Drive, Upton, Chester CH2 1RE, telephone 01244 371473. www.soundtherapy4pets.com

Dust-free bedding for horses

Woodmet has launched Curlies dust-free bedding for horses, made entirely from natural fibres.

The company states that Curlies bedding is made entirely from wood and contains a high proportion of spruce, which means it is dust-free and suitable for horses with respiratory problems; it is also highly absorbent and biodegradable and can be used with rubber mats.

The bedding can be bought in large or small quantities with both pick up and delivery options available.

Address: Woodmet, Cunliffe Road, Whitebirk Industrial Estate, Blackburn BB1 5UA, telephone 01254 665077. www.curlies.co.uk

Medicines record book for producers

Intervet/Schering-Plough Animal Health has produced a new book in which producers can record medicines usage in their livestock.

Paul Williams, Intervet's livestock veterinary adviser, points out that those rearing, producing or treating farm animals that will end up as food for human consumption 'must keep a record of any veterinary medicinal product you give or treat them with'. The new book incorporates space to record the information required to comply with legislation.

Producers must also keep proof of purchase of all veterinary medicinal products and keep all records for a period of five years. A format for keeping all these records is set out in the book.

The record books will be available to livestock producers through veterinary surgeons.

Address: Intervet/ Schering-Plough



Animal Health, Walton Manor, Walton, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire MK7 7AJ, telephone 01908 685685. www.intervet.co.uk