

Blaircourt Equine Veterinary Clinic Ltd

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Friday 20th November 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

Please read below the ophthalmic examination report for "Lord Betts", 4yr old Dutch Warmblood gelding, taken place on Wednesday 18th November at Runningwell Equestrian Centre, Essex.

A suspicious central lesion in the left eye was an incidental finding at vaccination. The owner reports no ocular discharge, swelling, increased blinking or a closed eyelid in the duration that the horse has been at this yard (1month). The horse has been spooky on his near side, and difficult to handle and mount riders. Further investigations at the owners request were carried out.

Menace response of both eyes were present, although when approached from above, were slightly delayed followed by a "jerky" head response in both left and right eyes.

Examination of the right eye: Extra-ocular examination was normal. Ophthalmoscopy was within normal limits for both the anterior and posterior chambers and the fundus appears unaffected.

Examination of the left eye: Palpation of the globe was non-painful and conjunctiva were not inflamed. Ophthalmoscopy was done with atropine dilation to assess the lens and posterior chamber in greater detail. The aqueous fluid in the anterior chamber appears clear and colourless and therefore non-inflamed. However, the corpora nigra are reduced in size, two are detached from iris and there are multiple posterior synechia. There is a central white lesion to the lens (suspected cataract) with surrounding "frosting" taking up 90% of lens. Visualisation of the posterior chamber was not possible due to changes in the lens. Light can pass through the lens but I suspect the degree of visualisation/clarity is limited. These changes are consistent with a presumptive diagnosis of chronic uveitis as opposed to active or acute uveitis.

My recommendation based on the clinical examination with presumptive diagnosis of chronic uveitis and cataract formation, in addition to the behavioural changes noted by yard handlers and trainers deem this horse unsafe for both horse and rider. A more detailed examination by an ophthalmologist could be undertaken to further investigate this case.

Yours sincerely,



Sophia Pereira MRCVS
Associate Veterinary Surgeon