



AGNEW EQUINE NEWS

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Team Agnew Updates!

HIGHLIGHTS ON
WHAT WE'VE BEEN
UP TO THAT YOU
CAN FIND ON OUR
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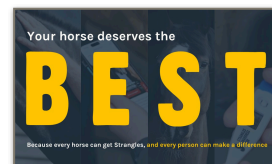
FILMS STARS
WE MADE A
PROMOTIONAL VIDEO
FOR VETIT



**WELCOME,
BERNARDO!**
NEW VET JOINED
TEAM AGNEW



FARRIER'S EVENING
ARNIE LED A FARRIER'S
CPD EVENING FOR
RUSSELL JONES



**STRANGLES
AWARENESS WEEK**
WE WERE ADVOCATES
FOR THE 2024
CAMPAIGN

Q&A With New Vet, Bernardo!

What inspired you to become an equine vet?

This goes back to when I was 11. My stepbrother put me in charge of treating one of his horses at the time: Belzebu. The poor horse had sustained a serious case of mud fever to both hindlimbs. Following the vet's recommendations, treatment included plenty of hand walking, applying clay to both hindlimbs, bandaging them, giving the usual painkillers and antibiotics. I diligently followed the vet's instructions. Within a week, Belzebu was cured! That sense of achievement made a huge and lasting impression on me.



What are your areas of special interest within equine medicine?

That's an easy one: diagnostic imaging, lameness and poor performance. I have always loved anatomy – something I keep revising every time I assess a horse – and appraising every single structure whether by visual inspection, palpation or through diagnostic imaging really makes my day. Putting all the pieces of the puzzle together through a comprehensive and educated workup can pose a real challenge but it is that investigative work as an anatomical detective that truly fascinates me.

"I look forward to meeting all of you and I thank the Agnew Equine team and my new clients whom I have met so far – both humans and equines - for making me feel so very welcomed and at home."

What can clients expect during a consultation with you?

I'm a good listener and I've been told by my clients that I am empathetic and sympathetic. I will always strive to listen to everything my clients tell me because all information helps. I'm also very thorough and adopt a comprehensive approach to my cases so please be patient because I don't cut corners or assume what is apparently obvious. Of course, there are exceptions. However, where there has been a chronic problem, sudden change or subtle lameness, there's no substitute for a full work-up using all of the technology available to help us. Finally, please understand that, like all of us first-responders during an emergency, I keep my emotions in check until I've achieved the best possible outcome.



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meds or book vettings!

What do you enjoy most about working with horses and their owners?

From the age of 5, I grew up with horses and this allows me to see the world from their perspective. They are prey animals which makes them quite anxious and fearful of most things they haven't had the chance to get used to. They are very noble, caring and spiritual creatures who are both very strong and very fragile. As a vet, it is a blessing to be able to treat them and relieve their pain, injuries and illnesses. I like to think that I'm helping the well-being of owners and carers for horses as well as looking after their wonderful equines to the best of my ability.

Have you had any horses of your own? If so, tell us about them!

Having a stepbrother who's been a prolific riding instructor for almost 30 years has certainly been helpful as he allowed me to ride most of his horses. The real love of my equine life from the age of 14 was a mare named Sevilhana - a well-bred 4-year-old, grey, Portuguese Sport Horse (Lusitano x Arab x Thoroughbred) mare. I soon learnt the lesson of patience and how to ask politely rather than demand or expect. Horses are our best teachers if we stop to listen to them. Sevilhana and I competed at several show jumping events at 1.10/1.15m. She's 25 years old now and enjoying a well-deserved retirement in Portugal, in great weather.

Can you share a memorable moment from your veterinary career so far?

Soon after I joined Agnew Equine last month, I attended an emergency call. A lovely gelding had got his front legs stuck in his hay net that was hanging in his stable and he was virtually suspended from his front legs. He was thrashing about, drenched in sweat, bashing his neck and head against the walls and the floor in a hopeless attempt to free himself. I administered the appropriate drugs in the right timings and, once they had taken effect, the clients were able to cut the hay net and free their beloved horse who sank to the floor, exhausted. As soon as the poor lad managed to stand up, still quivering, he immediately joined us by the stable door. We all kept very quiet and calm while the sound of the horse's breathing gradually returned to a normal pace. We all felt an immense gratitude for being able to help this horse. I had kept a chokehold on my emotions while I was doing my job - but I admit to shedding a few tears with the owners after the horse's recovery.

What do you like best about living in the UK, and what do you miss most about Portugal?

The English countryside and its scenery are just fascinating! Since I joined Agnew Equine, I've had the unexpected bonus of driving around some exceptionally beautiful, hilly countryside. I'm looking forward to seeing more of the UK but this part of the North West really is home and I'm putting down stronger roots as every year passes. As to Portugal, I do miss my family, my friends, the sunny days, the dry hot summers on the beach with my friends and then then eating at a restaurant on the seafront al fresco for a meal where the seafood is good beyond description - and, most of all, never feeling cold and damp. If you've been to Portugal in summer, you know what I mean. And if you haven't, I strongly recommend it!