

Press Release  
TKC7016  
30<sup>th</sup> July, 2007

## **NEIGH WORRIES FOR SICK HORSES IN THE HIGHLANDS**

Sick horses in the Highlands are miles better off with the opening of a new £250,000 veterinary clinic near Inverness.

The animals can be treated for a number of ailments at the Kessock Equine Veterinary Clinic at Drumsmittal - the only dedicated veterinary surgery in the region catering exclusively for horses, ponies and donkeys - where previously they would have had to travel to Glasgow or Edinburgh for surgery.

Senior vet Keith Chandler, who has specialised in treating horses for well over a decade, said: "The new clinic includes stables, a paddock, an examination room and a padded 'knock-down' box which will greatly improve safety for horses undergoing general anaesthesia.

"In addition to the new facilities the practice has also invested in equipment including a new state-of-the-art ultrasound scanner and a video endoscope. In the next few weeks the new facilities will allow the practice to begin some major elective surgeries with the help of our visiting surgeon that up until now would have required a journey to surgical facilities in Glasgow and Edinburgh."

He went on: "We will be able to do so much more here than we did at our old premises in North Kessock. The Drumsmittal surgery will be better for our patients as they won't have to travel so far for treatment and their owners won't have to bear the cost of their journeys.

"The first surgeries and lameness investigations conducted at the clinic have been a great success and we look forward to welcoming more horses in the future. Wherever they are - Inverness-shire, Ross-shire, Caithness, Sutherland, Badenoch and Strathspey, Lochaber, Skye and Lochalsh, Moray, the Western Isles, Shetland and Orkney - we can go out to treat them or their owners can bring them to us."

Mr Chandler, 37, set up Kessock Equine Vets in a building at the back of his house in North Kessock more than three years ago but never dreamed his business would take off so quickly. The project to establish a new state-of-the-art clinic in the area was assisted financially by Highlands and Islands Enterprise Inverness and East Highland.

He said: "In the beginning it was just me but now I employ eight people including three other vets: Professor Mac Johnston, Chris Matthews and our latest recruit Emily Robson. The business has grown rapidly; we now look after about 3,000 horses a year."

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Editor's Notes:

- Further information on the practice at [www.kessock-equine-vets.co.uk](http://www.kessock-equine-vets.co.uk)
- Further media information and photographs from Caroline Keith at the **Keith** consultancy on 01463 811000