

WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

185 BRACKER ROAD

WARWICK.

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Newsletter

- **July-conferences and updates**
- **Update on ET**
- **Ascarid impactions in weanlings.**
- **Frank to start Allora and Goomburra run**



JULY, A BUSY "QUIET" MONTH IN HORSE PRACTICE IN WARWICK

It is really amazing how quickly the months go by. At Warwick Equine Veterinarians more progress with the computer server now installed in the new office which should ease some of our IT headaches.

During this month too Frank's family has finally been able to join him in Warwick which has been great.

Tias has been away a lot of the month. For about 10 days early in the month he was firstly performing his duties for the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists. This involved a series of Board and Council meetings, overseeing the examination of veterinarians undertaking the Membership and Fellowship examinations, as well as presenting and at-

tending at the Science Week conference. The ANZCVS is the peak veterinary industry body for veterinarians seeking higher clinical training and certification.

A week or so later Tias and Chaylee travelled to the lower Hunter Valley for the biggest equine conference of the year, the Bain Fallon lectures. Chaylee attended the equine nurses stream while Tias was involved with the presentation judging and equine lectures. Each year we attend conferences such as this to network with our colleagues, as well as keep abreast with new ideas and information. While in the Hunter Tias and Chaylee took the opportunity to examine and treat a few horses of our clients in that area as well.

Last Sunday we had our first dystocia for the season. Dystocia means difficult birth and this case was difficult. Unfortunately the foal decided to come with all four feet and head at the same time. These are one of the most difficult to correct presentations but luckily the foal was relatively small and the mare, though a maiden, was quite roomy. After a few little tricks we managed to organize the foal and pull him out. Unfortunately the little fellow had been trying to come out for some time and died before we got there.

And once again Hendra virus is topical again with 2 recent cases, one in Northern New South Wales and one in North Queensland. As we keep saying, vaccination of horses remains the best way to minimise risks to horses and humans.

Frank has decided to start a regular run to Allora and Goomburra every Tuesday afternoon.

On this day Frank will only be charging travel from Allora or Goomburra whichever is nearer.



UPDATE ON ET



ET has had his cast removed and at one month post injury the filly is in the paddock and doing well. The owners are very happy the filly has done so well considering the severity of the injury.



Tias delivering a lecture on the use of Radiography in making purchase decisions at Science Week last month.

Bowel obstruction and death in a weanling with Ascarid Worms.

Recently we had an unfortunate case which involved a foal on a stud locally. The call was on a Sunday and the owners reported the foal was depressed and not wanting to eat.

Our examination determined the foal had an elevated temperature, and had a very high heart rate and blue mucous membranes. There were few gut sounds observed.

These cases are always hard to exclude from being a Hendra case because the signs of Hendra could be so similar. Luckily the horses on this stud are all vaccinated so we could more easily proceed with further tests and treatment.

When we passed a stomach tube, we determined the stomach was not emptying normally. When we scanned the chest we could see no abnormalities but when we scanned the abdomen we could see distended loops of small intestine with round bodies (suspected worms) within the lumen.

At this stage the likely diagnosis was Ascarid (round) worms. After discussion with the owners, it was decided the foal was badly effected and had minimal chance of survival because there were so many of the worms in the foal's intestine it had caused blockage and this had effected all her body systems.

Although Tias has operated on several of these cases before in Melbourne his experience mirrors that reported in the literature. Because the worms do so much damage to the intestine, often even when the obstruction of worms is removed surgically, these cases don't do well. Therefore to ease her suffering we euthanased her.

Ascarid worms can be a significant problem in horses. It rarely causes issues in adults, but in foals and weanlings it is much more of a concern. Also an important issue is the emergence of increasing resistance to anthelmintics by this parasite. The parasite is also much more of an issue on properties which have lots of young stock and is certainly something to watch out for in this area.

Contact us if you need advice on worming programs or have a concern regarding parasite issue give us a call.



Above is a post mortem photo of the filly. You can see the distended loops of jejunum (a part of the small intestine) and if you look carefully you can see lots of white spaghetti like worms on the grass where they have crawled out of an opening made in the intestine.



A close up of a foal with obstructions due to Ascarid worms during surgery. This was one foal which Tias has operated which did survive but often these foals don't do well due to the severe damage done to the intestine by the parasite by the time the obstructions occur.

Warwick Equine Veterinarians

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Our goal is to provide excellence in clinical service to all our equine patients.

A professional, compassionate and caring approach with good communication, and up to date services.

Excellence in Equine Veterinary Care

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