

WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

185 BRACKER ROAD

WARWICK.

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Newsletter

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This should be our last newsletter for 2016. It has been a great year for us at WEV and we greatly appreciate having had the opportunity to look after so many of your horses. It has been at times very difficult fitting everyone in, however, in most instances we have managed to get to all cases. The TB breeding season is now very much winding down and the focus shifting in this industry to preparing the yearlings for the upcoming sales. Other horse breeding is still in full swing and as always it seems November and December are the main months for his work.

This month we have done the largest number of castrations we have done in any month since starting again in Warwick. We are also slowly increasing the number of surgeries we are doing at the new Lona facility. Last Saturday we had Leah our consultant anaesthetist come up from Melbourne again and continue training our staff and do a couple of tricky cases for us. Starting from early next year when our new vet Caitlin joins us we will start to take on more surgery and intensive hospital cases at Lona. In another first for WEV we employed a school student, Dusty, for the Christmas holidays.

Pumpkin is a delightful little Shetland pony which was referred into us from Toowoomba. She has suffered from long standing hoof pain and chronic laminitis. 3 years ago I had performed bilateral standing tenotomy of the deep digital flexor tendon on her to help realign her hoof angles and



Pumpkin being prepared for surgery by Danielle and Skye, having her mouth washed out. It is easy to see how upright her front feet have become again with the dorsal hoof wall nearly 90 degrees

reduce pain and she had responded very well to this. I had performed this surgery standing because there was a history of her collapsing with sedation, and we were worried about sedation and anaesthesia. She is such a lovely natured pony she coped with this surgery very well with only local anaesthesia and no sedation. Just recently she started going very upright in her feet again.

Although the previous surgery had gone well, there was some scarring which would make the second surgery more difficult. For this reason we elected to do the surgery this time on both legs at the same time under general anaesthetic. After careful assessment by both Leah and myself we performed the surgery on Saturday. Fortunately she coped very well with both sedation and analgesia and it made the surgery much easier and safer to do than attempting it standing as previously.



We decided to perform the surgery on Pumpkin in our transfer area to reduce time under anaesthetic due to her history of collapse with sedation

After care will be very important for Pumpkin, fortunately she has a very dedicated farrier and vet team in Toowoomba to give her this care.

Another interesting case was one I operated for the Gold Coast Equine Clinic this month. The horse, a show jumper, had suffered a blunt trauma to the front of the shoulder some 3-4 months previously. He developed characteristic rapid and severe muscle wastage over the shoulder blade (scapula) due to damage to the suprascapular nerve. The loss of the muscle function associated with this nerve damage results in a characteristic gait defect where the shoulder and elbow move laterally when weight bearing. As was done by the team at GCEC we often initially leave these to see if the nerve can

regenerate itself. In this case there was no significant return of function at about 4 months so a decision was made to decompress the nerve surgically.



You may be able to appreciate the muscle wastage over the shoulder blade in this horse.

This requires careful dissection out of the nerve and the removal of a wedge of bone under the damaged nerve to take all pressure off it.



In this intraoperative view you can see the wide band like nerve being held up by the rubber drain and the bone of the scapula immediately beneath it where we are about make the notch

We all hope you have a great Christmas and New Year and we look forward to continuing to be of service to you in 2017. Thanks again to all our customers who made our 2016 a rewarding and successful year.

Tias, Lindsay, Chaylee, Rita, Skye, Danielle, and Dusty

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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