

WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

185 BRACKER ROAD

WARWICK.

ISSUE 5

1 SEPTEMBER 2015

Newsletter

- **Foaling and breeding season**
- **Breeding and AI arrangements**
- **3DE at Morgan Park**
- **Shock wave treatment now available**
- **New Xray equipment**



THE QUIET BEFORE THE STORM

August is traditionally a quiet month in horse practice in this part of the world. Although we have foals being delivered regularly during this month, mostly we don't start breeding until the days are a little longer and warmer. Nevertheless Frank and I have been kept busy trying to help their clients with their horses again.

Thoroughbreds intended for racing of course are not allowed to be covered until the first of September, still we spend some effort preparing mares during August so that as many of them are cycling regularly before the beginning September thereby maximising the number of early foals we have next year.

Frank had a busy but enjoyable weekend with the FEI 3 day event at Morgan Park. This is one of the first to mandate Hendra vaccination and certainly from our perspective this is a great plus and the way forward for the future. There is no better way of ensuring the safety of the people coming in contact with the horses than vaccination and we

support its continued roll out.

We had 2 very exciting new pieces of equipment delivered last week.

Shock wave is a treatment modality useful for many injuries especially of soft tissues of the back, neck and ligaments and tendons. We have often been referring these cases for treatment to other practices and now we can offer this from within our practice. Ask us if you think your horse might benefit from this treatment and we can give you advice on if it would be appropriate.

In the nearly 3 years since Tias came back to Warwick we have taken nearly 20 000 x-rays. Even though our current machine takes extremely good images, we have decided to acquire a second unit. Technology changes so quickly that the new machine can take at least as good images with the advantage of being cordless. This will make it a bit easier as power will no longer be needed for most cases. We feel having the 2 units we will be able to get to cases more quickly and have a back up if one unit needs servicing or repair.

Although in the previous 3 years Tias has been performing AI services on a small number of mares with both frozen and chilled semen, mostly we had to turn this work away because he did not have sufficient time to devote to it. This year with Frank on board, we are pleased to be able to offer this service to more of our clients. We can perform this service both at Tias' farm, Lona, or as out patients. Generally the AI component is most easily managed with the horses here at Lona. This is especially so with frozen semen which requires careful timing and this can often be at night. If you have mares to cover this year talk to Frank or Tias about your requirements and how we can best help you and what it might cost.

This year we are also set up to collect and ship semen, as well as all other reproductive procedures. However we have decided that this year we won't be offering embryo transfer services generally. We feel we still don't have sufficient capacity to fit this in and are referring these cases to our colleagues either near Tamworth or Toowoomba.



Frank with Tiraumea Coachman the FEI 1 eventing winner of the Warwick Horse Trials*

STAFF CHANGES

Unfortunately Sandy has chosen to leave our team. The long distances for her to travel to work made it hard for her to keep up with all her other interests and commitments so she chose to look for something closer to home. Tiana, a trainee vet nurse who has been working at Condamine Veterinary Clinic has stepped up to help us out a couple of days a week. We are sure you will find her most helpful and her work behind the scenes will help keep the practice ticking over.



Tiana holding Ben for Frank on her second day with WEV



Frank with our first shock wave patient at Lona. Shock wave sends pulses of energy through tissue which is useful in stimulating repair and also giving pain relief.

Using X-rays to optimise hoof balance and distal limb biomechanics

Something we are doing increasingly commonly is working with farriers to help optimise trimming and shoeing for performance. This co-operative approach has yielded some great results in all disciplines in our hands but most commonly in sport horses. We very commonly see horses with distal limb lameness. The diagnosis will vary. Common examples include problems with the navicular bone and bursa, deep digital flexor tendons, coffin bone as well as laminitis problems and collateral ligament issues. Each of these have many treatment possibilities but a very important part of the management always centres around getting the shoeing or trimming optimised.

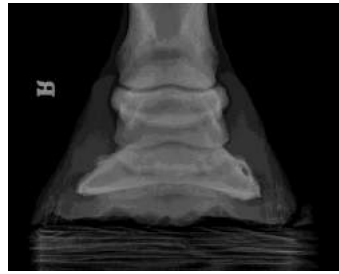
A recent example was down at the Gold Coast. The horse was a 7 year old ex race-horse used for pleasure riding mainly. As is the case in many of these horses, a close examination revealed multiple problems with both the fore and hind limbs. To try and manage the case we started systematically working through our problem list. Some of the issues would be what we call primary problems and many would be secondary pain and lameness due to other issues being present.

X-rays of the feet showed significant navicular bone pathology. Coinciding with this were problems with some of the angles in the feet. Luke Klan, who is one of the farriers whom we commonly work with, was there to provide remedial trimming and shoeing. This type of remedial work is optimally done with the benefit of x-rays before and after.

In this case the medial to lateral balance was reasonable but as you can see the coffin bone was at completely the wrong angle and this would contribute to significantly increased loading of the deep digital flexor tendon and navicular structures.

What we chose to do in this case was start with improving the orientation of the coffin bone and associated structures within the hoof. Then if necessary we could start other treatments if there was not enough improvement from the remedial farriery.

Many of these cases respond well to this form of less invasive treatment and do not go on to require more invasive treatments. It is also a good way to maximise the useful life of athletic horses.



2 of the x-rays taken before trimming. As you can see there seems to be too much toe but the medial to lateral balance is not bad. Some of you may also note the small fragment at the front of the coffin joint. Although these can cause problems, often they don't. Therefore, until we had evidence this fragment was contributing to the lameness issues Tias had to control his surgeons instinct to operate!



The same right fore foot after trimming. As you can see the medial to lateral balance is now near perfect and the palmar angle is improved from slightly negative to just positive. The shoe that was fitted was also designed and made to encourage break over and support the heel of the foot as much as possible. This will reduce the loading on the deep digital flexor tendon and navicular apparatus. These improvements in the biomechanics of the foot can have major impacts on the horse's ability to perform.

Warwick Equine Veterinarians

STAFF

Tias Muurlink BVSc (Hons) FANZCVS Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery
Frank Low BSc (Hons) BVSc(Hons) MANZCVS Veterinary Surgeon
Chaylee Joe Kong Vet Nurse Cert IV
Skye Ripphausen Vet Nurse Cert III
Tiana Bowyer Vet Nurse
Rita Gangemi Administration

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

OUR CONTACT DETAILS

Business office and postal address: 185 Bracker Road, Warwick, Q 4370

Email address: office@warwickequinevets.com.au

Website: warwickequinevets.com.au

Facebook: Warwick Equine Vets

Tias Mobile: 0438 791 804

Frank Mobile: 0487 791 885

Office and Chaylee (BH): 0400 977 564

