



Newsletter

- **Floods**
- **Tapeworms**
- **Pastern wound**
- **Laparoscopic rig castration**

We have had another eventful month. Floods have ravaged Queensland and New South Wales. Although the Warwick region was not too badly effected, many of our Gold Coast and Hinterland clients were not so well off.

Tias and Danielle both nearly got stranded between Canungra and Beaudesert last Thursday and Danielle and her family and horses were severely impacted with 1.5 m deep water flowing through their stables and ruining a lot of hay, a horse float, ride on mower... but fortunately they managed to get all their horses out.



Security camera footage of Danielle and her sister Caroline's mare and foal in the stable with water up to their belly. The water came up so quick they barely were able to get the horses out.

The wet weather has also brought out the parasites. Bots as always are most active in late summer, and have been annoying horses as we have been trying to examine and treat them in some cases. This month we saw a case of tapeworm. Tapeworms are not always considered a major problem for horses and have become much less common with the advent of using praziquantel in many of the commonly used worming pastes.



This is a photo of a tapeworm passed in the manure of a weanling this month.

These parasites often attach near the junction between the small intestine and caecum and can be involved with ileocaecal intussusception. This is a condition that can cause both acute and lower grade colic and before praziquantel became widely used this was quite a common cause of colic in horses in some regions of Australia.

Generally the surgery required is ileocaecal bypass, and this is not always easy to achieve and can lead to long term problems so it is indeed fortunate we see this particular type of colic less frequently.



This is a photo of a nearly completed hand sewn ileocaecal anastomosis and bypass Tias performed during his time in Melbourne. Many surgeons feel we are doing this surgery much less commonly now that there is better control of tapeworms.

Another case was of a much loved and very nice gelding who had managed to get his foot caught over a plain wire fence and making a large wound on the pastern. This wound bled profusely due to having severed the lateral digital artery, vein and nerve and there was concern the collateral ligament and joint may have been damaged. Therefore we anaesthetised him and cleaned up and partially sutured the wound.



This shows the wound just before partial suturing.

This case nicely demonstrates how important it is to carefully assess wounds. If the joint or ligaments for example are involved, the treatment required for successful outcomes is much different. In some cases this is much easier to do well with the horse anaesthetised and in a clean operating room.

Just today we had a case of a racehorse which another practice had attempted to castrate a

couple of years ago. One normally descended testes was removed at that time and although there was an attempt made to find the non descended testes within the abdomen it was not found. The "gelding" continued to display colt like behaviour and once he started winning some races, he was sent to us for another attempt.

The best way to find these missing testicles is using laparoscopy. It allows us to look around the abdomen well and we can trace from the inguinal canal right up to near the kidney where embryonically the testes forms. In this case there was no good record of from which side the testes was removed so we needed to be prepared to go in both sides.

For this horse we decided to do the operation with the horse sedated standing in our special crush at Lona.



Here you can see the surgery in progress with Tias lifting the testes up from within the intestines before removal.



The flaccid and small abdominal testes recovered from the horse's abdomen

As illustrated by this case, these testes are often quite small compared to normally descended testes, and can be quite hard to find. Therefore it is very satisfying for all the team when we are able to get a good outcome as in this case.

Once again thanks to all our clients for entrusting us with their business and the care of their horses.

Tias, Caitlin, Chaylee, Skye, Danielle and Rita

Warwick Equine Veterinarians

STAFF

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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

OUR CONTACT DETAILS



The devastating damage caused by fast flowing flood water at the back of Danielle's property. A big clean up will be needed.

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