

WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

185 BRACKER ROAD

WARWICK.

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This month has been exceptionally busy. Generally the cold months are much quieter, perhaps it is because it has been such a mild start to winter that has kept the cases flowing so well. For the first time since all the new stables were finished we been full for several nights at Lona reflecting the large number of surgical cases we handled this month. Amongst the cases operated this month were many arthroscopic joint surgeries, angular limb surgeries, several cryptorchid castrations, as well individual conditions like bone cysts, infected joints and tendon sheaths, respiratory surgeries...

As mentioned last month, Tias will be away for most of the first 2 weeks of July overseeing the examinations of veterinarians and specialists and then conferences. This is important for our practice as it enables us to contribute to our industry and keep abreast of developments. As do many practices, we often host vet and school students. This month we had a student from the University of Queensland, Lydia, for a couple of weeks. She really impressed us with her knowledge and enthusiasm and no doubt will go on to do great things in her future career. Also both Danielle and Skye will attend an equine nurses conference in the second week of July.



Lydia got the opportunity to assist in several surgeries at Lona last week.

Chaylee and Odie will be away for 5 weeks in Canada visiting their brother who is getting married. This will be a challenge for us as Chaylee has become so key to the efficient running of our business. In the meantime, Caitlin and Lindsay will be around to keep the practice afloat until we can all get back. This month we also launched our new website and we will endeavour to continue to develop this over the coming months. Caitlin con-

tinues to post news and cases on Face Book and we encourage you to keep abreast of this too.

A big part of our daily case load remains lameness. Our approach is to get as definitive a diagnosis as often as possible. Often when we look hard enough many horses have multiple issues. Getting to the bottom of these cases can take time and patience and often involves careful examinations, nerve blocks, and multiple imaging techniques.

In other cases changes are quite obvious and we can get to the bottom of the most significant issues quite quickly. An example was this case of an older mare used for dressage. We managed to localise the lameness quite quickly to the right hind based on history and our clinical exam.



Radiographs revealed significant changes in the distal hock joints, especially the centro distal joint. As you can see there is marked loss of bone and modelling of the second joint up from the cannon bone.

This is distal hock joint arthritis, or what was traditionally call bone spavin. Options for treatment include intra-articular injections, systemic bisphosphonate treatment (eg Tildren) and surgery. This is what we call a low motion joint and if we fuse the bones together to make them one, we don't lose much ability to perform yet the lameness often resolves.

Arthrodesis, which is the technical name for this process of fusing joints, can work really well but the recovery time from surgery is often quite prolonged. Therefore in a case of an older horse we often tend to focus on non-surgical management.

We had a frustrating case this month. An 8 month gelding (we had only castrated him 2 months ago) was found unable to rise in the morning. The mare's udder was not very full indicating the foal had not been down long.

When we arrived he had progressed from being down and willing to eat and drink to down and showing more pronounced neurological signs. This case was in an area of the Gold Coast hinterland near were the most recently diagnosed case of Hendra was located.

With rapidly progressive neurological conditions in our part of the world, the most important rule out to start with was of course Hendra virus and other zoonotic viral diseases.

Therefore we had to don our full PPE and take appropriate samples and submit this to the Biosecurity laboratory. This was a weekday so we had the result the following day. Unfortunately this foal deteriorated very rapidly and died well before we had the results.

What this case emphasised to me once again the importance of having either horses fully vaccinated or being able to get the results of testing back very quickly. We will never know if we could have done more for this gelding as we did not get the chance to help him very much at all.

Thanks again to all our customers. Tias, Caitlin, Chaylee, Skye, Danielle and Odie



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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