

# WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

## 185 BRACKER ROAD

### WARWICK.

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#### Newsletter

*Jess and Michael*

*Twins*

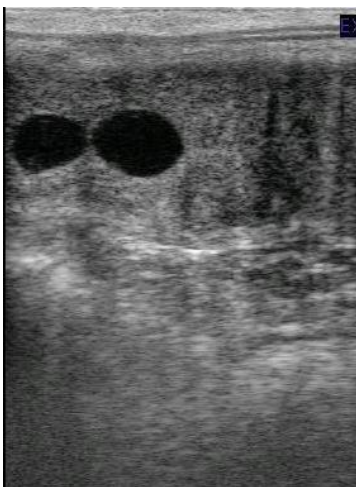
*Fractured hock, DR xrays*

*Live foal to mare fractured radius*

September set a new record for WEV. It's been a busy start to the breeding season and the month proved to be the busiest yet for all of us since we started 5 years ago. Caitlin had a good month, and keeps impressing us and our clients with her cheery nature and competent patient care. She managed to set a milestone for herself one week castrating 12 horses in one week on top of all her other cases!

We have had to call on the services of 2 of our veterinary colleagues to help us manage our some of our cases. Jess Flynn, who recently moved to Allora helped us out a few days last month. Jess has a particular interest in Equine reproduction and it's been great to have her help out when she can. Michael Higgins, is a really experienced equine vet who recently retired from practice on the Gold Coast. Michael has also done a few days for us and helped us keep up with our very busy caseload.

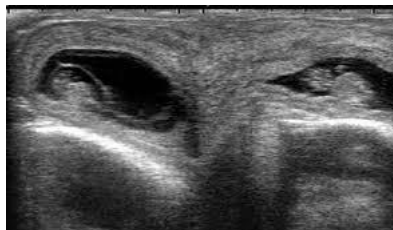
Twins in mares is always a problem. As our management of mares and stallions improve our conception rates also rise. Along with this rise twinning rates are often increased as well. In our practice we put a lot of emphasis to scan mares before 16 days after ovulation. The reason for this is at this time the management of twins is much more successful than at any other time during pregnancy.



The chances of mares producing 2 live healthy foals safely is so low we now routinely reduce twins to singletons if at all possible. Although even at 14 or

15 days post ovulation reducing twins carries some risk, it is well established that if done carefully by experienced reproduction vets this offers by far the best outcomes in almost all situations.

Given we place so much emphasis on early twin detection it has become much less common to see twins at a later stage of pregnancy or born in our practice. However, although in some cases we can reduce twin pregnancies later in gestation outcomes are much less consistent.



This is what we strive to avoid. These are twin pregnancies about 30 days after ovulation close together in the uterus. There are many reasons why these can still occur even with early scanning though mostly these occur when we do not know when mare's have ovulated or were not scanned early in pregnancy.

Recently we have had a number of fracture cases. One extremely unfortunate case was a gelding competing at a local barrel race. A fall at a barrel occurred, though we are not sure if the fracture occurred before he fell causing the fall or if the fracture occurred because of the fall.



This is what a normal oblique xray of a hock in a mature horse should look like. As you can see the bones are all smooth in outline and the joint surfaces have a regular outline.



This is what the xray of the fallen gelding looked like. There are numerous fractures resulting in a large number of fragments. This means the bones are completely unable to provide support to the horse and there is complete loss of use of the limb.

Many fractures in horses can be treated. However, this is an example of a fracture for which we have no realistic treatment. Some decisions we have to make are very difficult. For me the most difficult decisions are those where the stakes for the animal and the owners are very high and the chances of success are marginal. This was a relatively less difficult decision, as this horse had no realistic chance of any sort of reasonable pain free life. In cases like this having the technology to xray on site with no power and instant image production can make a lot of difference to how much suffering the horses have to endure.



Here Chaylee is using the cordless xray equipment in surgery, the other place where this technology has made a big difference, as it allows much quicker placement of implants while maintaining sterility.

Once again, thanks to all our clients for their patience when we could not get to them immediately, and for continuing to give us the opportunity to help your horses.

Tias, Caitlin, Chaylee, Skye, Danielle, Odie, and Jess and Michael.

# Warwick Equine Veterinarians

## STAFF

Tias Muurlink BVSc (Hons) FANZCVS Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery  
Caitlin Doyle BVSc (Hons) Veterinarian  
Chaylee Joe Kong Vet Nurse Cert IV  
Skye Ripphausen Vet Nurse Cert III  
Danielle Assen 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

Now a good news story. Last month we described a case of a mare which sustained a severe fracture of her leg in a kicking match with her paddock mate.

Difficult decisions had to



be made as the mare was heavily pregnant and we elected to treat her with careful medical management.

Jess has spent a lot of time treating this mare and her good care paid off with a beautiful filly foal born.

We still may need to do some surgery on the mare to resolve infection and remove dead bone but it's a credit to all involved to have such a good outcome.



Outcomes like these make up for some of the tragic cases we come across!

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