

WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

185 BRACKER ROAD

WARWICK.

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Newsletter

A busy year wraps up

Twins

Patella fracture

Rigs or cryptorchids

Proximal suspensory disease

December at last; it's been an extremely busy year for WEV. Going back over the statistics for the practice it has been gratifying to realise we have grown over 50% compared to the year before.

2017 has seen lots of changes in our practice. Caitlin started in January and has made an enormous contribution, not least in providing very competent anaesthesia to all hospital surgeries. This has allowed us to perform a far greater range of cases and of much increased complexity at our home base of Lona.



Here Tias, with Katie one of the final year students we hosted this year assisting, is performing abdominal surgery on a horse. As all good surgeons know surgery can go perfectly but if the back up services aren't good, outcomes become poor. In the background you can see Caitlin monitoring anaesthesia with the other nurses supporting us, a real team effort.

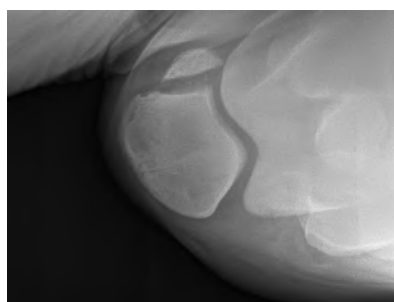
This year Odie started with us and her cheerful behind the scenes support has been invaluable for us to continue handling the large number of cases which have come through. And last and not least, we had a new trainee vet nurse start with us in November. Grace hails from Inverell and has lots of experience with horses, and will complete her training while working with us as well as doing some time with our sister practice Condamine Veterinary Clinic in small animals. This is essential for her to allow her to attain her veterinary nurses qualification as all VN courses currently need a component of small animals in the training.

Twins in horses are rarely a good thing. Recently Caitlin was called out to a mare foaling near Warwick. It soon became apparent the foal was very small and sure enough in a short space of time 2 small foals were delivered.



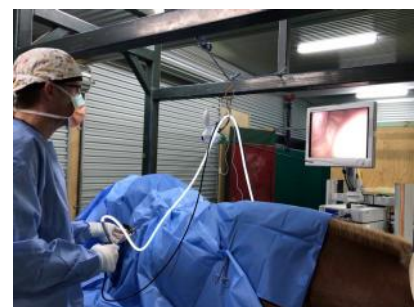
This was a very unfortunate case as the mare had been scanned at the stud near Toowoomba where she came from and, as can happen in rare cases, the fact she was carrying twins was missed. Caitlin and the owners had to work very hard to resuscitate the foals but even with the best of care, one of the foals died before it was 24 hours old. The good news is the other foal, while very undersized is at this stage is doing well. It really emphasises the importance of scanning mares at the appropriate times to minimise the chances of this happening.

This month we had a huge range of interesting orthopaedic cases. One was of a 2017 foal which had been lame for a couple of weeks before we were called upon to examine it. Standard stifle xrays were taken and although we were a little suspicious something was not right with the patella (or knee cap) it was only when we took a skyline view of the patella were we able to easily recognise a parasagittal fracture. Unfortunately, while we did not get the opportunity to operate this case, it was rewarding to be able to accurately diagnose the cause of the lameness for the owners.



This month we did a large number of castrations. Perhaps this is because the colts are all becoming more of a nuisance with so many mares and fillies cycling. We also castrated more cryptorchid horses (rigs) in November than we have in any month previously. Cryptorchids mean that one or more of the testes are not fully descended into the scrotum. In all males testes form near the kidneys in utero and descend to outside the abdomen into the scrotum around about birth. Therefore when there are not 2 normal testes in the scrotum, we need to consider the possibility the testes may be anywhere from the kidneys down to the normal scrotal position.

We had a number of cases where the testes were fully abdominal, including one case where both testes were very small and high in the abdomen. This case was operated on his back in theatre. Another case was referred to us after the vet had removed one normal testes. Fortunately the referring vet made careful note of which side was removed and therefore we were able to do standing laparoscopic surgery to remove the remaining fully abdominal testes. In our opinion this is now the preferred way to operate these cases if the colt is of a temperament that, with sedation, will allow standing surgery.



Several other cases we operated in a number of other ways to successfully castrate them.

It has been a great year for WEV. All of us in the WEV team feel very fortunate to have had the chance to help our clients with their horses. We all would like to thank all of our clients for trusting us with their horse's care.

We also wish all our clients, friends and family all the best for the Christmas season and hope you all have a wonderful 2018.

Warwick Equine Veterinarians

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Our goal is to provide excellence in clinical services 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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*This month we diagnosed and treated a number of cases of hindlimb **proximal suspensory desmitis**. This condition results from chronic inflammation of the suspensory ligament near its insertion on the cannon bone. As our imaging and understanding of the innervation to the area has improved, we are diagnosing this condition more commonly. Diagnosis often relies on a combination of nerve blocks and x-ray and ultrasound examinations. Many treatment options are reported but commonly surgery is indicated.*

The surgery is a bit delicate and involves a combination of releasing the tight band over the proximal suspensory region and at the same time removing a section of nerve which goes to this area.

Here we are approaching the proximal suspensory region with the horse on its back on the operating table with the leg flexed to allow us to access.

Before this surgery was developed outcomes for this condition were often quite poor and now we can reasonably confidently give horses a good chance of returning to athletic performance.

