

WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

185 BRACKER ROAD

WARWICK.

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Newsletter

- **Winter Repro Jobs**
- **Dentistry**
- **Backs, SI joints and necks**

More sales have passed and it seems we are doing more and more sales preparation work. For the last Magic Millions thoroughbred sales we assisted in the preparation, "scoped" and x-rayed a record number for our practice. We feel this is a very important service we can offer for our clients as successful sales are what many of our client's livelihoods depend on.

Although we are now finished breeding for the year, reproduction is not fully out of our minds. Monitoring pregnancies in "problem" mares, that is those which have previously aborted a foal, or one which is identified as at risk for some other reason is now becoming much more routine. This most commonly involves ultrasound examination of the placenta.

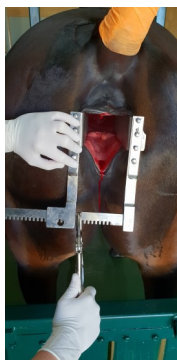
Some mares have problems which are best sorted out during the non breeding time of year to get them in best shape for an attempt at successful breeding the next year. Examples of this are surgical correction of abnormalities. Doing this well ahead of the next breeding season allows the repair to settle and be in the best shape for the next breeding season. Examples of conditions may range from performing an effective



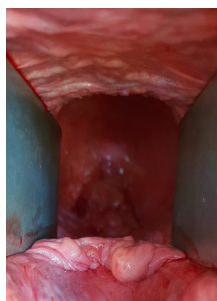
Caslick to correcting more severe perineal conformation defects.

Many mares develop cervical lacerations when they foal, and this is more common when there is a malpresentation or an assisted delivery. If the lacerations do not prevent the cervix from forming an effective seal, which many don't, then no treatment may be

needed. More severe cases need surgical repair, some may just need a suture placed immediately after breeding, others can cope if attention is paid to ensuring the other seals between the uterus and the outside world are working well.

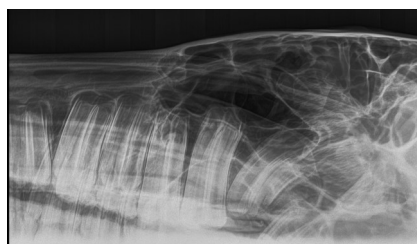


Here is a photo of how it looks just before surgery commences. You can just appreciate the cervix in the distance. To repair it we need to pull the cervix back with either heavy sutures or laparoscopy instruments.

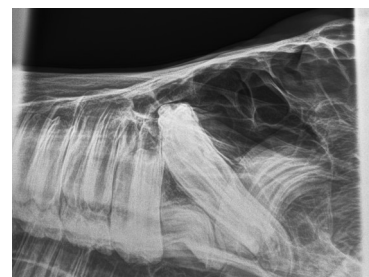


Dentistry is a growing area of veterinary science and in our practice too we are seeing increased numbers of dental cases. This was an interesting case we examined this month. The horse was in race training and showing severe issues with accepting the bit and other behavioural issues. The trainer astutely surmised there was a problem somewhere likely giving pain and he suspected in the mouth.

Examination revealed a severe ramp in one of lower jaws. This had formed due to failure of the opposing upper teeth to erupt normally. X-rays showed the underlying cause of the problem. Normally there are 6 large molar teeth in both the left and right upper and lower jaws. In this horse on one side an extra tooth had formed which prevented normal eruption. This had caused overgrowths and abnormal wear and also pain where the tooth had been forced to erupt in a completely abnormal direction.



The first x-ray is of the normal upper row of teeth. Although the teeth do not all look like they are in line, this is normal with the last tooth erupting at an angle, presumably to keep the molars all nicely compacted against each other.



The second x-ray shows how the teeth are growing in all directions at the back part of the mouth on this side, and there is one extra tooth. This will be very difficult to manage, with probably the last 3 molars needing removal. For now we have just ground down the overgrowths and will see how these teeth continue to erupt. It is a very difficult place to access surgically and fraught with lots of complications when we do, so we are hoping the teeth will erupt sufficiently to allow access to them via the mouth.

Last weekend Tias participated at a conference in Melbourne on examination and treatment of back and pelvic issues. As our understanding of neck, back and pelvic issues grows we are constantly coming up with new ways to manage these problems. It is becoming an increasing area of interest and treating these horses has been quite satisfying.

Diagnosis is often a challenge, with all of palpation, examination under exercise, x-rays, ultrasound and scintigraphy (bone scan) being useful in some cases. Blocking suspected areas can be worthwhile in some cases and often we use response to treatment as a guide as well.



This is an example of the sort of ultrasound images we can get of the facet joints in the lumbar region of the back. Using ultrasound guidance, we can accurately inject into these deep joints.

Once again thanks to all our clients for giving us the opportunity to help with their horses. Tias

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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This is how we perform ultrasound guided injections of the intervertebral process (facet) joints in the backs of horses, something we are increasingly doing with better recognition of back problems.

