

WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

185 BRACKER ROAD

WARWICK.

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Newsletter

Tooth extractions

Beans

A equali in a stallion

Its that time of the month again when I need to reflect a little on the cases we've seen and what has happened in our practice and with our clients. We were lucky to had Paul with us for nearly 3 months and this gave us the chance to give Caitlin her deserved holidays and Tias time to get through the busy college exam development period. Paul left us last week to return with his family to South Africa and to get ready for a busy breeding season there. We too are anticipating a busy breeding season with Raheen standing a new stallion, as well as the relatively strong TB sales results giving us the indication that there may be plenty of mares to get in foal this year. Other exciting practice news is this month Skye completed her Certificate IV in veterinary nursing. This is a great achievement when juggling family and work along side the study required.



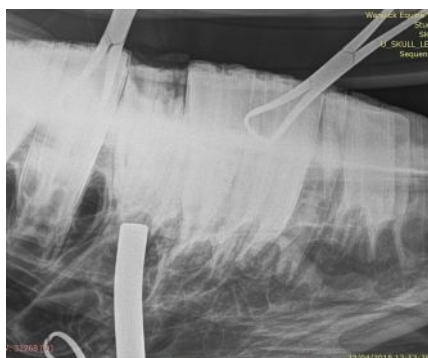
As always we tend to see lots of dentistry cases. Most dental cases are quite routine but we do see plenty of more complicated cases to keep us interested. An example this past month was a relatively young stock horse mare we had been monitoring for some time with fractures of her upper first molar teeth. This tooth is actually the third last molar tooth in the horses head and in this case both the upper first molar teeth had slab fractures. Being a young horse the teeth as still quite large and we had decided to monitor the mare and only

attempt extraction once we felt the teeth were actually causing excessive pain or causing problems with chewing. Of course this can be a difficult call but the owner was actually Caitlin and so I felt sure she would identify when the fractured teeth needed removal in her mare.



Our preference is to extract most teeth standing, using sedation and nerve blocks through the mouth. Unfortunately this is not always possible as in this case. This was because there was just not sufficient tooth above the gum line to allow the forceps to get sufficient grip. The photo shows the way oral extraction is generally done. The horse is restrained in stocks, sedated and blocked and the head held using a dental halter. If oral extraction is not possible there are other alternatives.

On the left you can see how we do surgical extractions under GA. The horse is anaesthetised and the tooth is approached by making a hole in the skull and the tooth pushed out using a punch. We are fortunate in our practice we can often offer a range of options to get the job done as in this case.



As you can see in this x-ray we used intra-operative x-rays to ensure we have the punch correctly positioned and to make sure all the tooth is removed.



This is a photo of the diseased tooth. On the left of the tooth in the image you can appreciate the small amount of the tooth which was above the gum line which is why it had been so difficult to remove orally.

Often when we sedate geldings or stallions for other reasons like dentistry we check to see if there are stones forming near the end of the penis, commonly known as "beans". In most horses smegma which is normally produced in this region is cleared naturally but in some horses this builds up into soft or sometimes hard lumps called beans.



The location where these normally occur is just beside the opening of the urethra. In this photo it is just on the "plam" side of the opening. Some horses will allow you to check for and remove these without sedation others are quite resentful of this.

Signs that geldings are forming beans may be spraying of urine on the legs, difficulty in urination or frequent posturing to urinate. Prevention is difficult, cleaning with warm water is good, but not too frequently and certainly do not using any disinfectants or soaps. These practices can change the normal bacteria in the region and cause irritation and make things worse.



Once again thanks to all our clients from the WEV team.

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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Another interesting case this month: An older stallion had been treated by another practice for colic over a period of a week or so. The stallion had been febrile (elevated temperature) and his colic pain had varied over this time. He would eat somewhat, especially after pain relief and was intermittently passing manure. Initially it had been hard to do too much for him because he was unvaccinated and results of Hendra exclusion testing had to come back. We were called to see him after he developed a swollen scrotum on one side.

Ultrasound examination soon determined this was not due to any hernias or a problem with his testicles, but due to pus which was coming through from his abdomen. There is a particular form of peritonitis called Actinobacillus equuli. This is an organism which causes colic and fever in horses which starts off quite mild but when left untreated can cause death. Generally, if treated early enough with the right antibiotics, good outcomes can be had. In this case appropriate treatment started quite late and it became necessary to euthanase the stallion.

On the right is an interesting ultrasound image of the scrotum of the stallion showing the testes and epididymis in a sea of pus which has passed down the inguinal canal from the abdomen into the scrotum.

It was a very sad outcome for a much loved and beautiful horse.

