

# WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

## 185 BRACKER ROAD

### WARWICK.

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#### Newsletter

##### **New staff**

##### **Dentigerous cysts**

##### **SCC of the penis**

##### **Temporomandibular Joint**

Each month there are further changes and more progress at WEV. In June Tamasin Joe Kong started with us as vet nurse to assist with the increased number of cases coming through. As well Tamasin is going to assume more of the reception and co-ordination roles and ensure the office continues functioning efficiently. Tamasin has a keen interest in sport horses, regularly training and competing in barrel racing and brings with her lots of administration experience having worked for a local accounting firm for many years.



Another exciting development is Dr Michael Duggan joining our practice. Since graduation in 2008, Mick has been working at a number of clinics in NSW and England, latterly focusing on his main interests of equine reproduction and equine general practice. Mick has moved back to his family's property near Killarney with his fiancé Gina and settled in helping his family with their Angus stud. Mick is really keen on assisted breeding techniques and last year performed large numbers of frozen and chilled AI, as well as many successful embryo transfers. He is also keen and experienced in semen collection and processing as well as dentistry. It means for the first time since WEV commenced we have the capacity to offer services like semen collection and shipping as well as embryo collection and transfer. We feel Mick's interests and abilities will complement our team really well and will allow us to much better service our client's needs.



One interesting case recently referred to us was a young gelding which was developing head shyness and swelling below his ears. From time to time the lumps would drain near the base of the ear discharging mucoid material. The owners were aware when they bought the horse he had undergone surgery for cysts in this region.

Our examination consisted of examining the swelling with x-ray and ultrasound. These confirmed our clinical suspicion that the swelling were likely due to a congenital problem where extra dental tissue forms at the base of the ear, often associated with cyst like formation. Although previous attempts to remove the cysts had been made incomplete removal is usually followed by recurrence of swelling and discharge.

In this x-ray it is clear that a large aberrant tooth remains along with soft tissue components of dental origin.



In this photo you can appreciate the cyst removed at the top and its connection to the dental tissue at the bottom of the photo.



It is great to be able to report this horse has returned home and so far is progressing very well from the surgery.

Another case in the last few weeks was an Arab gelding referred from Charleville. He was a very lightly pigmented horse and had developed a skin tumour known as a squamous cell carcinoma on the preputial skin. There are many options for dealing with these with some evidence in the literature suggesting that complete amputation of the penis and surrounding tissue and lymph

nodes gives the best long term outcomes.



We discussed this option and others and ended up deciding the best option for this case was to perform wide local excision. This involves removing a ring of skin from around the penis and suturing it back together traditionally called a reefing operation.



Although the gelding did not cope well with the stress of travel and hospitalisation, he recovered well and is back at home and starting ridden exercise again.

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

# Warwick Equine Veterinarians

## STAFF

Tias Muurlink BVSc (Hons) FANZCVS Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery  
Michael Duggan BVSc MRCVS Veterinarian  
Caitlin Doyle BVSc (Hons) Veterinarian  
Chaylee Joe Kong Vet Nurse Cert IV  
Skye Ripphausen Vet Nurse Cert IV  
Danielle Assen Vet Nurse  
Odette Kolenich Vet Nurse  
Tamasin Joe Kong 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

### Business office and postal address:

185 Bracker Road, Warwick, Q 4370

### Equine facilities and surgery:

19811 New England Highway

Rosenthal Heights, Q 4370

Email address: [office@warwickequinevets.com.au](mailto:office@warwickequinevets.com.au)

Website: [warwickequinevets.com.au](http://warwickequinevets.com.au)

Facebook: Warwick Equine Vets

Tias Mobile: 0438 791 804

Caitlin Mobile: 0487 791 885

Mick Mobile: 0459 027 993

Office and Chaylee (BH): 0400 977 564



Temporomandibular joint problems, while not common, are being increasingly diagnosed. This joint is the articulation between the skull and the mandible. Injuries, infection and most commonly problems with the teeth are responsible for most TMJ issues. Owners often recognise there is something wrong when

the horse has issues chewing or swallowing or has pain or resistance when ridden. This x-ray of a recent case shows a normal TMJ while the x-ray below shows another case with a severely effected joint on the right compared with the joint on the other side of the head. Treatment options for conditions of the TMJ include addressing the underlying causes if any (like dental problems), injecting the joint with anti-inflammatory medications, systemic medications and in some cases there are surgical options as well.

