

WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

185 BRACKER ROAD

WARWICK.

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Newsletter

What's happening at WEV

Breeding season

Navicular syndrome

Over grown hooves

Another good month for WEV. It is great to report that we are finally in a position where we can start offering a more complete service. Up to this year we just have not had enough staff, both nurses and vets to be able to commit to giving our clients comprehensive breeding services. This has changed with Mick Duggan joining us as well as having a full complement of support staff. As many of you will already have experienced, Mick has a passion for breeding and is very experienced in this area. He also enjoys mixed equine practice and dentistry so he is a very welcome addition to our staff.



This year on top of all the general, surgical and hospital based services we have been providing, we can now offer stallion semen collection and processing, comprehensive artificial insemination services using chilled and frozen semen, and embryo collection and transfer or shipping. Of course we will still also continue

to be involved with thoroughbred breeding as we have been for many years now. We have been busy installing a dummy for stallion collection, as well as getting stocked up with all the necessary



supplies in readiness for the start of TB breeding in a few weeks time. All we now need is some rain and warmer weather!

This year we are also going to have an evening at the practice with talks on reproduction related topics in August. Check our Facebook page for further details.

The recent exam period of the Australian and New Zealand College of Veterinary Scientists which finished a few weeks ago saw Tias step down as

Chief Examiner. This role over the last many years has required Tias to spend around 20



hours each week away from the practice. Tias will continue to serve the College on the Board and on several committees as well as an Equine Surgery examiner, but the commitment will be substantially less allowing more time to devote to clinical practice. Tias was also awarded a medal for his service to the college and our profession over many years.

Problems with the navicular bone and associated structures are a common cause of lameness in horses. This month it feels like we diagnosed more than our share of these cases. Problems in this area were once called Navicular Disease but now with better understanding of the many structures involved many are now calling lameness in the heel area of the horse Navicular Syndrome. The exact term used is not so important as recognising there are many structures in the heel region of the foot, and lameness in this area is seldom confined to one structure alone. Our ability in Queensland to image this area is quite limited, hopefully MRI will become available north of Sydney soon and we can become more exact with our diagnoses and treatments.

At the moment x-rays still are very important for us to diagnose problems in this area. As we always point out the x-rays only show us in



detail what is happening to the bone but often it is the soft tissues of the foot that are equally involved.

This first x-ray shows very large lucent regions within the navicular bone. While some small distal margin

lucencies can be present in normal horses, once we see such large holes in the bone it almost always is significant. We can also take another view which highlights the region of the navicular bone where the deep digital flexor tendon wraps



around the bone. It is not hard to imagine that in a case like this one there will likely be a degree of navicular bursa inflammation and possible damage to the cartilage and tendons.



This is another case from this month. These are smaller lucencies but more in number along the distal margin of the navicular bone. It often does take quite a lot of clinical judgement to determine whether these are significant. This generally means nerve blocks, some time ultrasound examinations and occasionally we still need to send these cases to Sydney for MRI to get more detailed answers.

Treatment is more management than cure unfortunately. Often we use a combination of shoeing changes, medication of the coffin joint or navicular bursa, and systemic treatments like bisphosphonates. We like to take our time talking through the complex issues and helping our clients make the best choices for their horses. Although a cure is often not possible, we often can make big improvements to both the welfare and performance of these horses.

Once again all the best with your horses and thanks again to all our clients for entrusting us with the care of your animals.

From all the staff at WEV.



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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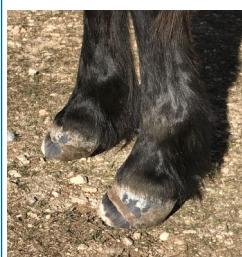
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It is incredible what can happen if basic care is not provided to domesticated horses and ponies. As you can see in the first photo, this is what can happen if no trimming occurs for a long period and natural wear does not occur, for example if the pony is in a small yard. Other causes can be untreated laminitis.

Caitlin, with the help of one of the local farriers Adam Tozer handled this case. As you can see in the second x-ray, a horse shoe nail was used as a marked to determine how far back to cut back the feet.



After some careful trimming you can see the result in the last photo. Sometimes it is best to cut these back gradually but in this case the pedal bone was in a relatively normal position and so more could be achieved in one sitting. In this pony it is likely the overgrowth was mainly due to excessive growth and inadequate trimming and natural wear. You can imagine how much better the pony would have felt after this trim.!

