

# WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

## 185 BRACKER ROAD

### WARWICK.

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#### Newsletter

***Vet nurses conference***

***Dentistry month***

***Complications from tie back surgery***

***Twin pregnancy surgery***

Brisbane this year hosted the Veterinary Nurse Council of Australia annual conference. Over 550 vet nurses attended over the 3 days and it is great to see opportunities like this becoming more available for our nurses. It allows our nurses to maintain their credentials, keep updated and inspired, and allows networking between with colleagues. Two of our nurses, Chaylee and Odette attended the equine day and Tias was also involved as an invited speaker to lecture in the equine program.



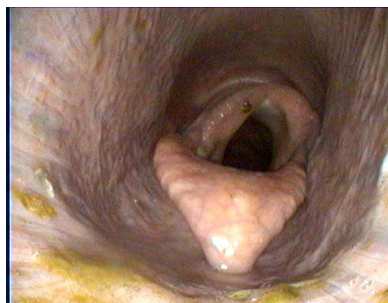
Chaylee and Odette checking out the trade displays at the VNCA conference this week.

*A reminder too that we are making April our dentistry month. Already we have done lots of dentals and encourage all of our clients and their friends to take advantage of our reduced cost routine dental care during April. Contact the office to*

*confirm costs and book an appointment if interested.*

Last month we were asked to check a mare, recently purchased by one of our clients from a sale as a broodmare. The owner had noticed that she continually coughed, and had foul smelling nasal discharge from both nostrils especially when eating or drinking. In all other respects she was a suitable mare for breeding; she is a big rangey mare and with a great temperament.

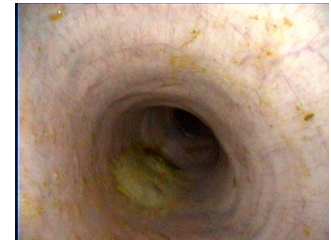
Our examination revealed normal temperature, mildly increased lung sounds especially at the lower part of the chest and it was easy to elicit a



cough when squeezing on the trachea (wind pipe). We went on to scope her and it soon became apparent what the cause of the problem was.

As you can see in the image above the arytenoid cartilage on the right of the image (which is actually the left of the horse), is pulled right out. There is some feed material in the pharynx and lots of mucous and pus in front of the larynx.

In the image below there is a lot of mucopus within the trachea and what is not so apparent in this image is



there was also a lot of feed material within some parts of the trachea as well.

This is a case of surgical repair of laryngeal paralysis in a horse which was a roarer which has not gone as well as it might. With this surgery, it is always a compromise as to how far to pull out the arytenoid cartilage between enough to get adequate breathing and return to athletic performance, and too far which cause problems with swallowing. In this mare inhalation of water and feed into the trachea is occurring. The excessive abduction (the arytenoid appears pulled too far out) is causing chronic inhalation of feed and water into the trachea and this is causing ongoing moderate to severe tracheitis and some lung inflammation. This may also be contributed to by damage to small nerves in the region of the surgery which are important in swallowing as well. It is possible that removing the prosthesis may help this mare though often scarring makes it hard to reverse these problems.

Lona and many areas received some useful rain over the month and we hope this continues, and those that have missed out get some soon. Once again we thank our clients for their trust and support over the month.

All of the WEV team.

# Warwick Equine Veterinarians

## STAFF

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Excellence in Equine Veterinary Care

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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.

Twins! Unfortunately this is never good news in mares. Rarely are the outcomes good if twins are allowed to continue into late pregnancy and beyond. Often it results in disaster. This is why we spend so much effort in trying to diagnose twins early. If we are aware of twins early, before about 16 or 17 days, we can usually reduce to a singleton pregnancy easily (that is terminate one twin). This month we were asked to assist in a case of twins which the referring vet had been called in to deal with well beyond the 17 day cut off for easy management. Dr Chopin, a specialist in reproduction from Brisbane, monitored the pregnancies from about 30 days to 120 days and on a number of occasions had attempted to safely deal with the issue. It was decided at about 120 days that the best option to reduce the twin pregnancy to a singleton pregnancy was to do a surgical procedure to allow access to the uterus through the flank. With Tias and his team doing the surgical approach, it allowed Dr Chopin to successfully terminate one twin. So far all is going to plan and it is hoped one healthy foal will be delivered later this year. It was a great example of good teamwork, this time between the two practices, achieving a good outcome.

