

Newsletter

- **Client night at Lona**
- **Mouth laceration**
- **Back surgery**

In May we are hosting a information evening at our Lona facility. This will be a great opportunity for our clients and their friends to meet our new vets, Paula and Sara. Also we hope we can give you some useful information you can use. The evening will officially start at about **6 pm on the 14th of May**, however, before this we will have a demonstration of gastric endoscopy at about 5.30 to show those of you who haven't seen the procedure how its done. This will be a follow up 'scope on one of our horses diagnosed with ulcers recently. Updates will be on our Facebook page or you can contact the office with your RSVP. Topics to be discussed will be: Paula is going to talk about First Aid for horses, Sara on dentistry, Mick on parasite control and Tias on stomach ulcers and gastroscopy.

We had a very busy April despite ongoing severe seasonal conditions in much of our practice area and some interesting and satisfying cases.

One case was of a warmblood filly from central Queensland. Several weeks before she came down to us she sustained a traumatic injury to the right side of her mouth. She had undergone a couple of surgical repairs, however, both times this failed to reconstruct the important lip edges in the corner of her mouth.



This is how it looked when she came off the truck at Lona. After removal of all sutures and a few days on antibiotics we scheduled her for reconstructive surgery.

Under general anaesthetic we carefully debrided and refreshed the wound edges before reconstructing the corner of the mouth as best we could using a combination of internal and external sutures and stents.



At the end of surgery this is how it all came together. We kept her at Lona for a few weeks and most of the repair held nicely. At suture removal from the repair this is what it looked like.

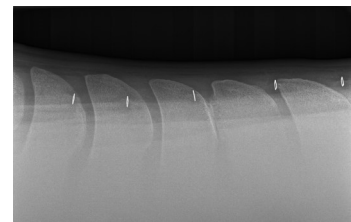


We were quite happy with progress but we decided to place a few more sutures just before sending her home. As you can see in the photo, although not a perfect mouth, it is much better than when we started.

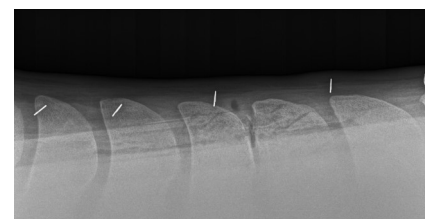
We are recognising and treating more backs than ever at WEV. Sometimes sore backs can be successfully managed by rest, exercises, physio and manipulation, sometimes it becomes apparent that these approaches are not working and we get called in. We examined a large number of back cases this month. One example was a large warmblood gelding used for dressage. He had not so much been displaying soreness of the back but problems with collection and ridden work which resulted him in being difficult if not dangerous to ride. Interestingly this was more apparent in ridden work one way. Otherwise he was quite good to handle. A comprehensive work up was undertaken which included lameness exams, a bone scan and x-rays of the back as well carefully checking his teeth and temporomandibular joints. After careful consideration of all options we decided to perform a local block of his dorsal spinous processes in the areas considered suspect in the imaging. Using x-ray guidance to be sure we



had the local injected in exactly the right spots, he was ridden again and there was a marked difference in his willingness to work. After this careful work up and considering the results from the examination, bone scan, x-rays and blocking, we decided surgery was the best option for him. Several surgical approaches are possible. In this case we decided we would first try a standing procedure to allow the impinging spinous processes more freedom to move and heal.



This image was taken as we were preparing for surgery and markers are in place. It is easy to see how one of the spaces is obliterated with considerable reaction in the adjacent bone. In the image below taken during surgery there is more space already between the processes due to the ligament between them being severed.



This surgery can be quite successful, especially when combined with careful rehabilitation. The surgery is done standing using ultrasound and x-ray guidance to allow us to accurately access the effected regions. The photo gives an idea of how the surgery is performed with the horse in the standing surgery crush at Lona sedated and blocked.

Once again we are grateful to all our clients for their support and for giving us the chance to help with your precious horses.

From all 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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