

# WARWICK EQUINE VETERINARIANS

## 185 BRACKER ROAD

### WARWICK.

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#### Newsletter

*Dry weather and Paula leaves our practice*

*Laparoscopy for rig with uncertain castration history*

*Lip laceration follow up*

The severe dry weather persists in our region. For the first time since its inception nearly 7 years ago, WEV has failed to grow. Our clients are really struggling now and this has been reflected in their discretionary spending. Breeding and some non essential surgery has been most impacted, with a very marked drop in the number of mares covered for this time of year. Just in our practice, we have at least 150 mares less bred than we would normally have at this time of year. It may turn around with some rain but we expect the severe seasonal conditions to continue to impact on our business for some time to come.

Paula and her family, after six months with us decided that Queensland was not, after all, where they wanted to be. Paula finished up with us in September and is now in the process of moving her family back to South Australia. We hope they find somewhere to settle down and wish them all the best for the future.

Last month we had an interesting case. This horse was bought by the owners with an uncertain history. When he was introduced to the other horses he behaved in a stallion like manner. For a 6 year old thoroughbred potential rig he was still quite well mannered and certainly did not behave quite as aggressively towards other horses as many stallions do. We discussed with the owner possibilities including that some geldings can be left with some stallion traits and that there was a chance this horse had intra-abdominal testes. We knew there



were no normally descended testes as nothing was palpable or detected on ultrasound examination. In this case we elected to start with a hormone test to determine the levels of male hormones.

The test came back with levels higher than normal for a gelding but low for a stallion. These can be very challenging cases because there is no certainty as to what may have been removed previously and what may be present. To make it even more difficult the hormone levels were not definitive. In years gone by we would have given this horse a general anaesthetic and made a fairly large incision into his abdomen and tried to find any remaining testicular tissue. This is hard because the testes form near the kidneys in foals and then descend into the scrotum around birth. It means that often we need to explore the top part of the abdomen to find the testes and when doing this surgery with the horse on its back all the intestines fall up to the top part of the abdomen making careful examination of this region very difficult.

Nowadays with the advent of laparoscopy in horses we can usually do this surgery standing. When the horse is standing the intestines are more low in the abdomen and it allows us to quickly and carefully examine the region from the kidney to the scrotum using very small incisions.



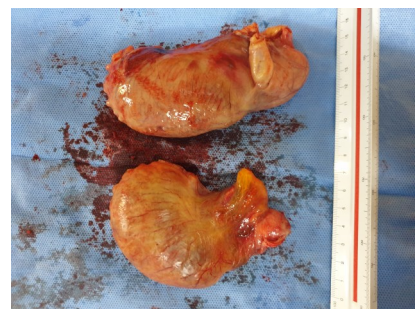
As you can see above the view in the region of the abdomen where the testes will be is quite good and the horses tolerate this standing procedure very well in most cases. In this case we manage to find 2 testes of relatively normal size, which is something we had not really expected when we considered the behaviour of



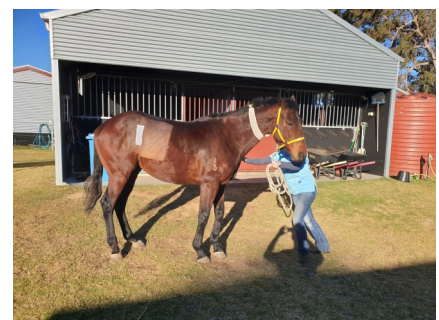
the stallion and the relatively low hormone levels.



This is the view of the testes within the abdomen. We are holding it up just prior to removal.



The horse walked out of the surgery as though nothing had happened and recovered uneventfully.



This was a challenging case due to the uncertain history and laboratory findings, however, with use of modern laparoscopic techniques we managed to sort out the issues in a relatively atraumatic manner.

We hope it rains soon everywhere it is needed and again wish to thank all our clients for entrusting us to help with their horses.

The WEV team.

# Warwick Equine Veterinarians

## STAFF

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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

## OUR CONTACT DETAILS

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A few months ago we described a case of a severe lip laceration in a weanling warmblood filly from central Queensland. Recently we had the opportunity to see how it had healed up. The photo on the left shows how she presented to us after several attempts

at repair by the local vets and the photo on the bottom right is how it has healed up. It goes to show what can be achieved in some cases with persistence and working with nature to move healing in the right direction.

