

PRE-PURCHASE EXAMINATIONS

A pre-purchase examination is a thorough inspection done by a veterinarian on behalf of a purchaser before the purchase of a horse. We perform many of these examinations on behalf of our clients. We follow the Equine Veterinarians Australia (EVA) standard protocol which is a 5 stage examination which takes approximately 2 hours. Stage 1 is the preliminary examination which involves checking the eyes, heart, lungs, temperature, legs, skin, head etc. Stage 2 is an examination during walking, trotting, turning and backing. We will often lunge the horse and perform flexion tests during this stage. Stage 3 is examination during and immediately after exercise. This exercise is often done on a lunge but can also be under saddle. Stage 4 is examination in the period after exercise. During this time we

check that the heart and lungs recover well and examine the eyes with an ophthalmoscope and check the teeth with a gag. Stage 5 is the final examination during walking, trotting, turning and backing. This is to ensure that a lameness has not developed after exercise. We also perform various neurological tests at this time.

In addition to this standard protocol, there are various procedures that can be done to get more information about the horse. Endoscopy, Radiography, Ultrasonography, rectal examination, ECG, blood tests and drug screening can be performed. The advent of digital radiography has meant that we can easily perform a pre-purchase screening series of X-rays of the entire horse to gather lots of information. The decision to perform these additional tests will depend on the purchaser, the cost of the horse, and whether there are specific problems that we are concerned about with a particular horse.

Accompanying this examination is a detailed four page report documenting the findings of the exam. It is very important to understand that at no stage does the report state a PASS or FAIL. The decision to purchase the horse is a business judgement that is solely the responsibility of the buyer that he or

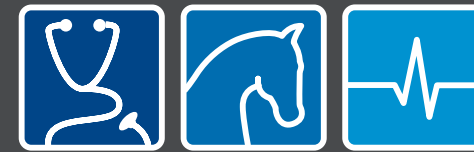
she should make on the basis of a variety of factors, only one of which is the examination and report provided by the veterinarian. In particular, the proposed purpose of the horse is very important, so there would be occasions where the same horse would be suitable for one individual and not another.

If you are thinking of purchasing a new horse, feel free to give the clinic a call to discuss the benefits of a pre-purchase examination. It should be remembered that the original cost of the horse is important, but ongoing veterinary costs, agistment costs and feed costs mean that it is worth finding out everything you can about a horse before making the emotional and economic investment.



Arnie Prepurchase

THE EQUINE PRACTICE COMPLETE VETERINARY HORSE CARE



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winter 12

CLINIC NEWS

Hello everyone and welcome to our Winter 2012 newsletter!! Congratulations to Megan (in our office) and Brad on the exciting news that they are expecting the birth of their first child. Megan will be leaving us at the end of July and will be sorely missed. We are very pleased to welcome Michelle Coleman to the team. As a fellow horse owner she understands your concerns and needs and has vast experience in an office environment. Sue is looking forward to an overseas trip to catch up with her daughter in Canada and Cuba. We are in the midst of

treating her beloved horse Minnie for a very serious eye infection. There is an article on eye issues later in this newsletter. Arnie and Christian are looking forward to the debut run of their 2 year project, "Arytenoid", a rejected racehorse. He has had an array of setbacks and veterinary problems but looks to have recovered well! We are also extremely excited about our new state of the art Digital X-ray unit that we acquired in October last year. There is an article within this newsletter highlighting the benefits of digital radiography.



Michelle Coleman



Arytenoid

EVENTS AND SPONSORSHIP

ITS BEEN A BUSY START TO THE YEAR

The Equine Practice is proud to have sponsored and been involved in numerous equestrian events over the last few months. We were the veterinarians on course for the Yarra Valley polo tournament held in March at Coldstream. We were also the course veterinarians of the Yeringberg horse trials and Northern Metro Zone teams horse trials held at Yeringberg. In addition, we attended the Tintern horse trials at Wandin Park. We also were involved with the Donvale Adult Riding Club horse trials and Yarra Glen Pony Club trials held at Yarra Glen. Thankfully all these events were very successful with no serious injuries to horse or rider. We are also very proud to sponsor the Riding for the Disabled (RDA) at Viewbank. They do such a fantastic job in helping disabled children enjoy horse riding. We were a major sponsor of the Anglicare Peaceful Warriors cycling team, a great organisation who helps disadvantaged youth in our community.



Yarra Valley Polo



RDA Viewbank

THE EQUINE PRACTICE

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DIGITAL X-RAY MACHINE

During the last six months we have really seen the benefits of digital radiography in equine veterinary practice. The traditional method of taking X-rays of your horse in the field involved using individual plates, each with a film secured inside the plate. Once that plate was exposed to the X-ray beam, it was taken back to our dark room at the clinic and put through an automatic processor. The X-ray film would then be ready for viewing. Whilst this method can provide good quality radiographs, if the horse had moved or the angle/exposure were incorrect, the resultant radiograph would be non-diagnostic.

Digital radiography works in a completely different way. There is a single plate which is connected to a computer with a cable. Once exposed to an X-ray beam, the image shows up on the laptop screen in less than a second!! This means we can review the image immediately to ensure the angle and exposure are perfect. The other advantage is that we can make a diagnosis on the spot and begin treatment straight away. Examples of this would include fractures, bone infection, foreign body penetrations or bone fragmentation. We can also show you the radiographs at the time and explain what is happening with your horse. In addition, we can email a copy of the X-rays to specialist surgeons, or to farriers to help them with trimming or shoe placement. Whilst we review the X-ray on the spot, we always download them onto our large monitor back at the clinic for more detailed inspection. On this computer we can zoom in, change contrast and make measurements.

A good example (A) shows the use of digital radiography, a 3yo Freisian colt caught his lower lateral incisor teeth on a wire fence. Unfortunately this resulted in tearing the deciduous incisors out of the bony sockets with multiple small bony fragments.

We were able to see the extent of the damage with the digital X-rays and surgically remove the fragments on the spot. We were then able to radiograph the area post surgery on the spot to ensure all bone pieces were successfully removed. Thankfully the colt made a full recovery without any complications.

Example (B) shown is that of a foot. This radiograph shows ringbone (arthritis of the pastern), seedy toe (separation of the hoof wall) and pedal bone rotation.



(A) Fractured incisor and mandible

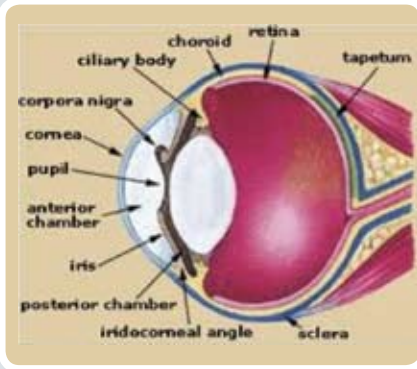


(B) Radiograph shows ringbone

EYES

Eye problems are a common issue encountered in veterinary practice. We frequently see corneal ulcers, a result of a trauma or scratch to the surface of the eye. Grass seeds or a piece of chaff can cause an ulcer and remain hidden in the eye under the third eyelid. We always try to search under the eyelids for any hidden foreign body when treating an ulcer. Corneal ulcers can vary in severity, with small superficial ulcers healing in a few days with correct treatment. Other ulcers can penetrate into the deeper layers of the cornea and set up severe infections (stromal abcess) which can take weeks or months to heal. Severe ulcers can even lead to the loss of an eye, which highlights the fact that any eye pain should be seen to immediately. The signs of eye pain are squinting, excessive tearing, redness, cloudiness or pus in the eye. With long standing or severe eye infections, treatment may need to be frequent, up to 8 times a day. Even the most tolerant and well behaved horses can find this testing, so there is a way of getting treatment into the eye through a subpalpebral treatment tube. This is a small catheter which is sutured in place through the lower eyelid. The various treatments are then injected through the catheter and into the eye without having to have an argument with the horse!!

Other eye conditions include conjunctivitis, uveitis, blocked tear ducts, congenital eye issues, glaucoma, ectopic cilia, cataracts and iris coloboma. We work in closely with Dr Andrew Turner and Dr Simon Hurn who are specialist ophthalmologists, for those cases that require more advanced treatment.



Eye Ulcer

DENTAL REMINDER

With winter approaching, don't forget to book your horse in for a dental. Most horses are done every 12 months, however, some individuals require more frequent dental care if they have a specific problem. We usually use sedation for our dentals so we can ensure a more thorough job and make the experience less stressful for your horse. The sedation does not cost any extra! We also have a headstand and light so that we can show you what's happening in your horses mouth.



Meet Christian (top) & Arnie (below), 2 goats named in our honour!



DOG & CAT VACCINATIONS

We can vaccinate your dog or cat on your property whilst looking at your horse. This can take the stress out of transporting. Call the clinic if you would like to book your smaller furry friends in for their vaccinations.

