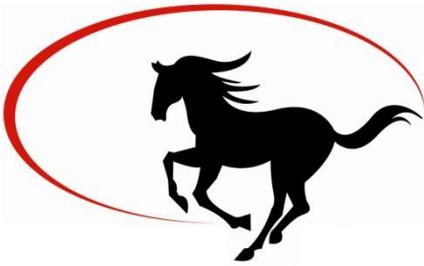


NORTHERN RIVERS EQUINE VETERINARY CLINIC



Autumn 2012

Well another successful stud season has been and gone and I think we are finally getting back on track after such a hectic season. Overall it was a good year for getting mares in foal and given it didn't get too hot this summer it was perfect for foaling down and the arrival of new born foals. As usual we dealt with a lot of emergencies from foaling down problems, to sick foals and mares as well as your everyday emergency colics and injuries. Having the hospital facility at Alabar really enabled us to provide a broader range of services to you and also operate much more efficiently and to a high standard which we always strive to achieve. We really endeavour to organise our days and stick to our appointments in a timely fashion and notify you wherever possible if we are running late. We really do appreciate your patience when we are called away to an emergency and you are forced to wait for the more routine consultations.

We welcomed Dr Sarah Shanks to our team in September 2011. Sarah joined us from Leicestershire, England and was a great asset to the NREVC team during Stud Season. Sarah left Australia in January to attend her brother's wedding. Sarah was a valuable member of our team for the stud season and we were sad to see her go but hopefully she will be back again soon.

As most will have noticed I am due to foal myself in a couple of weeks (so no I haven't just been lazy and eating too much!) and as such am having these last couple of weeks off to recharge the batteries. As you know all the phone calls come directly to me and have since I started NREVC three years ago. Because I will be away for few weeks we have implemented another phone number (seen below) that you can call which will put you in contact directly with an equine vet or the office. It can be used during working hours and after hours and unless the vet or office is already on another phone call you will be able to talk to someone directly. You may have a query about an account, wish to make an appointment, order drugs or have an emergency that needs to be seen all of which Rochelle in the office or an equine vet will be able to assist you. Obviously I do not just stop work and forget about you so feel free to text or leave me a voice message if you wish to have a chat about your horse (especially if it is not an urgent matter). I have a lot of on-going cases and of course a lot of race horses that we have on on-going programs and I have got to know inside out over the last few years so in this way we can still have discussions about your horses and implement the best plan of attack.

I look forward to catching up with you all soon – and probably next time you see me working I will be giving you a baby to hold whilst I work on your horse :)

Best Wishes,
Kath McIntosh.

NREVC
New Phone Number:

0417 172 430
(Office & After Hours)

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NREVC Sponsors Pony Club Event

NREVC recently sponsored the Pony Club Grand Champion Aggregate Award. This competition is run by Bamawn Extension, Deniliquin, Kyabram and Nathalia Pony Clubs. Pony club members compete in the Pony Club ring at the four gymkhanas, and the rider with the most points is presented with a trophy, sash and garland.

This year's competition was very well contested and the overall winner was not decided until the final gymkhana at Bamawn Extension. The overall winner was 8 year old Dani Altham and her pony Dalbrae Viola, from Bamawn Extension Pony Club.

Kath and Clare were both on hand to present Dani with her trophy, sash and garland, as well as judging the Fun Ring!

NREVC looks forward to sponsoring this event next year.

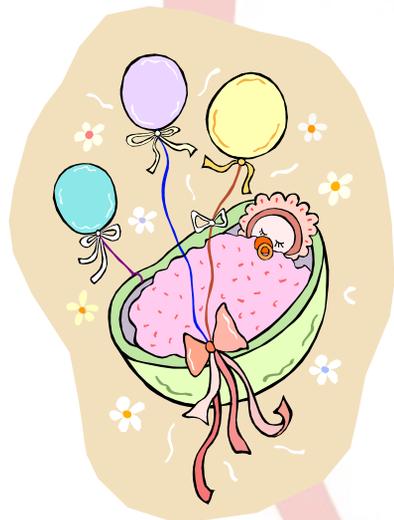
Picture Right: Clare presents winner Dani Altham with her trophy, garland and sash.



Microchipping Day @ NVSJC

NREVC was asked to organise a microchipping day to be held at the Northern Victorian Showjumping Club's grounds in Shepparton. It was held in conjunction with the club's Winter Series Showjumping Competition.

The day was very well attended, with 17 horses being microchipped and 2 being checked for microchips. All horses were then registered with Central Animal Records.



NREVC Baby Competition

To be in the running for a fantastic prize, simply guess the Date of Birth, Weight and Sex of Kath & Luke's baby. Extra points will be awarded if you also guess the correct name!!

The only hint we will give you is that the baby is due in April.

Email your entry to: accounts@nrequine.com.au or phone Rochelle on 0438 521396.

One entry per family.

Entries close on 12th April 2012.

A tip from the Master.....

Master race trainer Bart Cummings' Top 10 Commandments

1. Look at the Dam – A good mare will usually produce a useful horse no matter what the sire.
2. See the yearling in its natural environment. You need to know how they are treated when they are young.
3. Look at the size of the girth. If it's large there is plenty of room for a big heart and a good set of lungs.
4. The shorter the cannon and the closer the knee to the ground, the longer a horse's stride.
5. The longer the rein, the better balanced it is when its hind legs stretch out to the rear. Balance is everything!
6. Trust your instinct.
7. Always put the horse first.
8. Be gentle – Thoroughbreds respond to that. They are not machines.
9. Listen to the horse – they are always sending messages.
10. Be Patient.

REMINDER NOTICE: Annual Dental Examinations Due

Why is it important for my horse to have regular dental examinations?

Regular dental examinations of horses of all ages and courses allow for the identification of problems while they are still in the early stages. This decreases the risk of progression toward severe conditions, many of which have serious health implications. Remember that old saying: 'prevention is better than cure'.....and remember that positive pregnancy test that put a smile on your face this last breeding season – well, don't forget to look after the mouth of your broodmares too!

Horses with dental problems may show obvious signs such as pain, dropping food, resentment of the bit or poor performance **or** they may show no outward signs at all. It is sometimes amazing how much discomfort a horse endures without telling you! So, just because you don't notice a problem does not mean there isn't one brewing!!

Remember, once dental disease gets severe it is often irreversible. Consequently, the horse never regains its ability to chew properly and prepare food for effective digestion. This often results in poor feed conversion (poor weight gain) and other serious problems such as choke, colic and diarrhoea.

There are obstacles to a thorough examination and treatment in horses as they have tight cheeks and a small mouth opening relative to the size and number of teeth they possess. To perform the examination we place a mouth speculum (gag) on the horse to safely feel and visualise the upper and lower arcades of teeth. For the safety of the horse, you and us, the horse is given a sedative prior to gag placement.

Typically, most horses require some minor removal of sharp enamel points on both arcades, associated with the normal wear and tear patterns of the teeth. Such points left unchecked lead to cheek lacerations during chewing. Cheek ulcers are painful, encouraging the horse to move the jaw in an abnormal or awkward manner. One problem with a change in chewing pattern is that food gets trapped or jammed in various parts of the mouth. Subsequent fermentation leads to acid production and gum irritation and ultimately periodontal disease.

There are other common procedures that can be performed such as removal of wolf teeth and 'bit-seating' of the 1st cheek teeth in performance horses.

ACCOUNT PAYMENTS:

Please ensure you put either your client number or surname as a reference when paying your account by direct deposit. This will make it easier for us to allocate the payment to the correct account, especially if you are making rounded payments (e.g. \$300.00). Client numbers can be found on the bottom right hand side of your invoice/statement.

If there is no reference on the direct deposits, we have to ask the bank to trace the payment. The bank charges for this service, and in future all bank charges will be added to the client's account.

NREVC OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday 8am – 5pm
Saturday 8am – 12 noon

Phone: 0417 172 430

New Phone Number:

0417 172 430

(Office & After Hours)

24 Hour Emergency Service Available

EMAIL ADDRESS:

accounts@nrequine.com.au

OUR VETS.....

Dr Kath McIntosh
BVSc(hons), CMAVA

Dr Clare Williams-Paterson
BSc(hons), BVSc(hons), MACVSc, CMAVA

Office: 58 Gray Road, Kyabram

Surgical & Medical Facility: Alabar Clinic
Cnr Fraser & Murray Valley Highway, Koyuga