



# NORTHERN RIVERS EQUINE VETERINARY CLINIC

NEWSLETTER



## New Product – Succeed Granules

Gastrointestinal ulceration is a common problem among all horses due to the pressures and stress of performance coupled with the high energy, low fibre, low volume diets that they are fed with very little opportunity for grazing of which their gastrointestinal tract is much better designed for. Consequently ulceration of the gastrointestinal tract can occur. This can be diagnosed by gastroscopy which identifies ulcers in the stomach or fore gut. However ulceration can occur in the hind gut as well and this is a complex area of fermentation for the horse. The Succeed Faecal Blood Test is an easy to perform test which we can do on your horses' manure and it tests for the presence of blood. The two tests – haemoglobin and albumin – provide us with information on if there is ulceration in the hind gut or fore gut or both. The correct treatment can then be provided. To help return the gastrointestinal tract back to a healthy environment for the horse Succeed has a Digestive Conditioning supplement that is very palatable and is just added to the feed of the horse. We have had excellent results with this product in returning horses' gastrointestinal function back to normal function with many more positive flow on effects for the horse such as better performance, weight gain and maintenance and better behaviour. Please do not hesitate to contact us for more information on Succeed faecal testing and the digestive conditioning product.

### NREVC OPENING HOURS:

Monday – Friday      8am – 5:30pm  
Saturday              8:30am – 12 noon

**24 hour Emergency Service**

Phone: **0417 172 430**  
(Office and After Hours)

Email:  
**accounts@nrequine.com.au**



### **EMAILING ACCOUNTS**

If you would like your account emailed to you each month, please ring or email Hollie (accounts@nrequine.com.au) with your email address and she will add it to your file.

NREVC's first foal for 2015  
Strong, healthy colt



## NREVC SHOP NOW OPEN!

We now have available to purchase  
Wormers, vaccines, Kentucky Equine  
Research feed supplements, range of  
halters/lead ropes and other  
supplements for athletic horses



## Tetanus in horses

**Risk:** very high; whilst not contagious between horses, all equines are at risk due to their environment and tendency to injure themselves; Australia wide there is poor owner compliance to vaccinate; horses are the most sensitive of the domesticated animals to tetanus.

**Cause:** toxin from a bacteria that lives in soil and manure (so horses cannot escape it!) and enters the body through any kind of wound

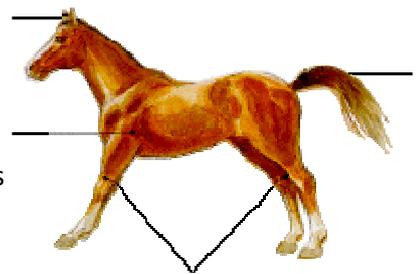
**Outcome of infection:** severe muscle paralysis; death in 80+% cases

**Vaccine:** Tetanus toxoid - safe and effective and the only way to provide long term protection (with annual booster); "cheap insurance" - prevention is cheaper than treatment.

**Myth:** "I will rely on giving tetanus anti-toxin alone when my horse hurts itself".

This is an extremely risky plan:

- (1) protection provided by the anti-toxin is very short (3 weeks)
- (2) horses can still develop tetanus once the immunity of the anti-toxin wanes
- (3) some wounds are so small that they go un-noticed



If tetanus boosters are maintained annually then when a horse does injure itself, the expense of giving the anti-toxin is saved.

## BREEDING SEASON CHECKLIST

**Parasite Control:** Don't forget to maintain drenching programmes so your environment is as clean as possible; not only for all stock, but especially for those newborn foals.

**Nutrition:** Broodmares – not too fat and not too thin! We don't want any avoidable foaling problems. Dry mares – look at a rising plane of nutrition to assist cycling.

**Dentals:** 12 monthly checks recommended.

**Farrier:** No hoof, no horse!! Feet are constant maintenance.

**Vaccination:** Tetanus and strangles are annual vaccinations in horses. Don't forget to vaccinate your broodmares in the last 6 weeks of pregnancy to boost antibodies in the colostrum for the foal.

**Caslicks Operation:** If your mare has a caslick in place, you need to remember to have it opened, usually 2 – 3 weeks before the foaling due date.

## Colostrum - the elixir of life

# NEWSLETTER

Colostrum or “first milk” is a thick, sticky, yellow honey-like substance rich in energy and antibodies that are critically important for immune protection of the newborn foal.

The multilayered structure of the placenta in horses blocks direct transfer of antibodies from the mare to the foetus in utero. Consequently, foals are born without immune protection. They are dependent on the antibodies ingested in colostrum for protection against infectious diseases (such as joint ill, pneumonia and diarrhoea).

The mare’s udder selectively concentrates antibodies from her blood during the last few weeks of pregnancy. Vaccination (example tetanus/strangles) of the mare is recommended in the last 4-6 before foaling to boost this concentration.

The newborn foal has specialized cells in its gut that target these antibodies; this absorption (passive transfer) is at its greatest during the first 6-8 hours of life and has essentially stopped at 24 hours of age.

Failure of passive transfer is not a disease and there are no clinical signs to diagnose it. However, we can measure this transfer (IgG test) from a blood sample, ideally taken from the foal at 12-14 hours of age. Foals returning unsatisfactory values can be supplemented with good quality colostrum and retested at 24 hours. After 24 hours of age if this value is low or negative, the foal requires a plasma transfusion to receive immunity.

### Continuing Education

In June Kath attended the New Zealand Veterinary Association Conference in Lake Taupo, New Zealand. World renowned speakers in lameness, wound management and performance issues such as airways and hearts were the fascinating topics. Kath now has a few more tricks in her bag for dealing with those poor performance issues and the all too common wounds. Kath also attended the annual Australian Equine Veterinary Association conference in the Hunter Valley in July. Here the topics were focussed on podiatry, foal medicine and surgery in conjunction with dealing with structural problems with foal legs and dealing with problematic mares to get in foal – very timely topics with stud season on the horizon.

In March Dr. Clare attended the Equine Sports Medicine Conference in Werribee. There was much interest in the therapeutic approach to performance limiting conditions in equine athletes, particularly those of the respiratory, cardiovascular and musculoskeletal systems.

Dr. Clare also attended the Pan Pacific Conference equine programme in Brisbane in May. Captivating and practical presentations on many topics; eyes, skin and pre-purchase examinations to mention a few. Equine rescue and emergencies got the adrenaline circulating. Review of the management of infectious diseases and associated biosecurity was most appropriate as dealing with some of the increased cases of Strangles in Victoria was the go on returning home.

### *Changes at NREVC*

We now have Credit card and Eftpos facilities available in the office. If you wish to pay via credit card, please phone the office or drop in. There are also portable machines in the vet’s cars.

Text message reminder service is now up and running. This allows the clinic to send all pre-booked appointments a reminder 24 hours before your appointment. You can reply to these messages for **non-urgent matters**, but in **emergencies** please call the all hours number **0417 172 430**. If you do not wish to receive reminders, please contact Hollie in the office.

## MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBERS

### Sinead Gleeson

Sinead qualified as a veterinary surgeon at University College Dublin (UCD) Ireland in 2009 and has subsequently been working in the UK and the USA gaining experience in a wide range of equine practices and hospitals. Most recently Sinead has been working in an equine hospital in Devon, in the south-west of England. She has particular interests in lameness and poor performance in racehorses and competition horses and a growing interest in reproduction and young stock management. Sinead completed a Certificate in Equine Sports Medicine from UCD in 2013 and she is due to complete the RCVS Certificate in Equine Surgery (Orthopaedics) in 2016. Outside of work, Sinead enjoys running, hunting, attending race meetings and returning home to Ireland as often as time permits. Sinead is looking forward to joining the NREVC team for the 2015 stud season.



### Josh Taylor

Josh joined the team at Northern Rivers Equine in February 2015. He is a local to Echuca and now has a small property in Bamawm where he lives with wife, Michelle and children Jayden and Lily. Josh is certified in Equine Artificial Insemination and has completed a Certificate IV in Agriculture. He began working professionally with horses in the Stallion Managers Position at Alabar Farms. Josh also has experience in the thoroughbred industry with Yearling Preparation and sales attendance with studs that have direct links to horses such as Kinston Town, Kingston Rule, Subzero, Black Caviar, and Pierro. Josh's passion for horses began at a much slower pace and now follows in his father's footsteps showing and putting on demonstrations with Clydesdales including the Melbourne and Sydney Royal shows where he has had great success on the show arena. Josh is a former Committee person for the Victorian Working Draught Horse Assoc. and currently holds a position on the Commonwealth Clydesdale Horse Society's committee. Josh cares for all the horses at our 78 Gray Rd property like they are his own and takes much pride in the handling and education of the foals that present each year.



### Hollie Sheehan

Hollie joined the NREVC team in June 2015 as Office Manager. Originally from Romsey in the Macedon Ranges, she moved to the area in 2013 with her partner and young family. Hollie spent many years working for thoroughbred stud Eliza Park both with the horses and in the office. During this time she has gained vast experience in the veterinary and equine industry and in all aspects of office administration and management. Hollie is the go to person for staff and clients and looks forward to meeting and assisting clients with all matters.



### Hayden Coyle

Hayden joined the NREVC team as a farm hand in August 2015 in time to help out during the busy season. He attended St Marys Primary school and Echuca Specialist School. Hayden enjoys going for runs, playing basketball, playing his x-box, riding motor bikes and playing with his dogs. Hayden enjoys working outdoors and is keen to learn about the equine industry from Kath and the team.

