

HEVC SUMMER 2010 Newsletter



Summer has arrived and what a wet time we are all having. With the rain comes many potential problems for your horse, so here are a few hints about what to look for and what to avoid.

- Be very careful of horse feed spoiling in the high humidity. Ensure your new supplies of hay and chaff haven't turned mouldy. Also be aware that colic is very prevalent at the moment, possibly a combination of the lush grass and moulds.
- We are seeing many horses bitten by flies and insects, causing dermatitis and/or allergic swellings. These may be controlled with cortisone injections, rugging and insect repellent, but you should refer to your vet for further advice. This can also lead to an outbreak of insect-borne viruses, such as Ross River Fever. These horses present with high temperatures, are off their feed, often reluctant to move and sometimes with swollen legs. If you have an animal that has gone off its feed or is lethargic, ensure you seek professional advice.
- As horses are now often standing in muddy yards for 24 hours a day, there is a high prevalence of thrush and greasy heel. Thrush can be managed using a formula of iodine and formalin. This is available at the clinic. However chronic and acute greasy heel requires much more careful management and may need to be under the supervision of your vet. Also be vigilant with your horse's hoof care, ensuring regular trimming and attention to cracks, as poor hoof care will increase the incidence of foot abscesses. Rain scald is also common at present; please ring the office if you have any concerns.
- The continuing warm humid weather is ideal for WORMS. Ensure your horse is wormed regularly and carry out the occasional egg count to make sure your anthelmintic is being effective.
- Laminitis is a big concern at present with the abundance of lush green grass. Ponies are the most susceptible. The majority of paddock horses on good pasture will require NO additional feeding. Don't overfeed, particularly if your horse is prone to laminitis. Look out for stiffness of gait or lameness, heat in the feet or an increase in the pulse to the feet. It is best to act early before complications such as rotation of the pedal bone occur.
- Remember that foals are very susceptible to illness and can go downhill rapidly if they become ill. If your foal appears to have gone off the suck, contact your vet immediately. If your foal is born in wet miserable conditions, be aware to check more regularly that they are ok and ensure the naval stump is cleaned well with dilute iodine or chlorhex.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our clients for their support over the past year. **John, Tony and all the Staff at Hawkesbury Equine Vet Centre** extends to you our best wishes for a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy and Healthy New Year** ahead.