



CHRISTMAS 2018 NEWSLETTER

The Vets and Staff at HEVC would like to wish all their patients and their owners a Happy and Healthy Festive Season.

We have had a nice start to the summer season with some very welcome rain. With summer now upon us and lots of water on the ground the mosquitos will be out in force. NOW is the time to start your preventative care against mosquitos for your "itch prone" horses. Preventative measures include; rugging all itch prone horses with light weight cotton rugs, ear protection eg. Fly mask with ear covers and daily or weekly insecticide treatments. Mosquitos are also known to carry many viruses to horses such as Ross River, Murray Valley Encephalitis and Kunjin Virus.



With the green grass we would also like to remind our client's with overweight or laminitis prone horses to monitor their weight and restrict access to green grass for those prone to or at risk of laminitis.

Staff News

Emily Streckfuss has



now gone off on maternity leave.

We wish her well for her impending birth.

We have a new vet starting in January; Dr Matthew Mackee. Matt is an experienced horseman with interests in breeding, podiatry and medicine cases. He will be a great addition to our team and we welcome him to HEVC.



POP QUIZ

1. What is wrong with this horses eye?
2. Where else on the body does this disease also commonly occur.
3. What does a horse have near its eye that humans do not?
4. How can this disease be treated?
5. How can you prevent this disease?

SEE OVER FOR ANSWERS →

HUGE CONGRATS TO OUR ET CLIENTS ON THE ARRIVAL OF SOME STUNNING FOALS.

Our ET programme is in full swing at the moment and we would like to congratulate all of our clients from last year on the safe arrival of some stunning foals and GOOD LUCK to those still waiting on their ET foals to arrive! Here are some pics of a few of these stunning foals:



To enquire about our ET programme, please contact our friendly reception staff for more details.

HEVC sends out quarterly newsletters. To receive these by email please call the office on (02) 4577 4611 or check our facebook page.

SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMAS

ABOUT THE CANCER - Squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) is one of the most common types of cancer diagnosed in horses. It generally shows up first in the skin, particularly around the eyes, on the penis or vulva, and in other areas where skin meets mucous membranes. It's especially common in horses with pink skin in these areas, such as Appaloosas, Paints and some draft breeds. Unpigmented skin has poor protection from the sun's damaging UV rays, which are a factor in causing this cancer.

A common place for a SCC to be found, is on the nictitating membrane (3rd eyelid) of the horse. Humans do NOT have a 3rd eyelid.



As the cancer grows, squamous cell carcinomas can begin to invade surrounding tissues, including the eye or even bone. It can also metastasize to other parts of the body. For example, growths around the eyes may spread first to the lymph nodes under the jaw. Once in the lymph system, the cancer can travel to other locations. It's the most common internal tumor in the intestinal tract, and the second most common overall.

SYMPTOMS- Symptoms of a SCC in horses will depend on the location of the cancer. Any persistent “sore”, raised lumps, foul odor to eye or penis etc, lack of appetite, discharge from an eye, bleeding from the penis and/or difficulty urinating or defecating.

TREATMENT OPTIONS - The skin form is treatable. Surgical removal of the tumor is attempted in most cases. 3rd eyelid masses are often treated by removal of the entire 3rd eyelid. Horses are able to survive without any significant ongoing complications after the removal of the 3rd eyelid. If the tumor can not be surgically removed (it's in a difficult place, for example), chemotherapy may be an option. The growths can be injected with a cytotoxic (cell-killing) drug such as cisplatin. Cryotherapy (freezing) is also sometimes used for small external growths.

PROGNOSIS – If the tumor can be removed entirely with good margins (eg. Small growths on edge of 3rd eyelid) the prognosis is good. In difficult areas where complete surgical excision is not possible, recurrence is common.

PREVENTION – Just like in people, cancer can not always be entirely prevented. However, the old “**SLIP SLOP SLAP**” saying is also relevant for horses. **SLIP** on a UV rated face/fly mask, **SLOP** on some daily zinc cream to the noses of horses with pink nostrils and **SLAP** on a light cotton rug. Rugs are also good for keeping off flies and mosquitos that are the most common cause of the “itch”.

