



STUD TO STABLE

Perth Equine Hospital Newsletter
Spring 2022



We hope this finds you and your loved ones safe, well and enjoying the glorious weather we are experiencing. After a long cold winter, spring brings a welcome relief. As the days grow longer, we all feel a bit more energised as nature seems to pull us outside into the fresh air.

Now is the perfect time to schedule your horse's preventative care. With most competition horses in peak season, it is important to investigate niggles, any low-grade lameness, and if they pull up sore, what the reason is. Early detection and intervention will minimise the risk of serious limb injuries developing. Some indications that it might be a good time to schedule such an exam, include a change in your horse's consistency in training. For example, a sudden difficulty in one lead change, can be a tip-off that something is amiss.

Routine preventive examinations are critical to maintain the health and soundness of a performance horse. They are a priceless, proactive strategy to help keep your horse feeling their best and reduce any downtime. So, whether it's proper nutrition, dental care, shoeing and foot care, digestive issues, lameness, or other aspects of veterinary care, make sure you schedule a spring wellness assessment to keep your horse in peak condition.

Paul O'Callaghan & the PEH Team





STAFF UPDATES



WELCOME BACK....

DR DANIELLE CROSBY

We are excited to welcome Dr Danielle Crosby back from maternity leave. Danielle is available Wednesday- Friday for consultations in clinic. Danielle is available to see both sports medicine and surgical cases and has a particular interest in synovial infections and colic surgery.



WELCOME TO THE TEAM

DONOVAN SHADWELL

We are excited to introduce a new addition to our team. Donovan Shadwell has worked extensively with stud thoroughbreds, standardbreds, performance and pleasure horses, providing him with excellent horsemanship skills and experience. Congratulations and welcome aboard!

VETERINARY STUDENTS

Over the spring and summer, you will notice we may have a few extra faces. Over the next 6 months we will be hosting several veterinary science students and nurses. Placement gives students an opportunity to be exposed to all sorts of different cases as well as work on their technical skills. Our clients are always so welcoming to students which makes their experience a positive one. Thank you!



EXTRACORPOREAL SHOCKWAVE IS HERE!

Extracorporeal Shockwave Therapy (ESWT) is a non-invasive treatment that uses high-energy sound waves to help relieve pain, speed healing and improve the quality of healing. The sound wave acts as a mechanical force at the cellular level causing various biological reactions. These have a profound effect in increasing blood supply to the area and stimulating the release of numerous substances involved in the normal healing process. Shock wave has also been demonstrated to recruit stem cells and positively regulate inflammatory proteins associated with osteoarthritis.



NEW

What it treats?

Shockwave is frequently used to manage and treat a variety of musculoskeletal and orthopaedic conditions including:

- Tendon, ligament, and muscle injuries
- Osteoarthritis/Degenerative Joint Disease
- Foot/Heel pain
- Bone healing
- Back and neck pain
- Wound healing

How are shockwaves delivered?

A special machine is used to direct shockwaves to the area of injury. The energy level and the depth of penetration of the shockwaves are varied to suit the injury.

What is involved in the procedure?

The procedure is performed in a standing patient under mild sedation. The area to be treated is clipped and a conduction gel is applied to ensure good contact between the skin and the probe head.

What is the treatment protocol?

The precise treatment protocol depends on the diagnosis of each individual patient. Treatment varies in the number of shockwaves administered and the energy of those shockwaves. Most conditions are treated a total of three times spaced at 7–21-day intervals.

Can shockwave therapy be applied outside the hospital?

The equipment is completely mobile and can be performed in an ambulatory capacity at your property or agistment facility.

Does shockwave work on every case?

No, there is no treatment that is successful in every case. It is extremely important to have an accurate diagnosis and a clearly defined area of injury to direct the shockwave to the appropriate area.

Adjunctive therapies

Depending on your horse's diagnosis shockwave may be recommended alone or with adjunctive therapies for treatment and management of musculoskeletal and orthopaedic conditions.

LAMINITIS

BEWARE OF SPRING GRASS!



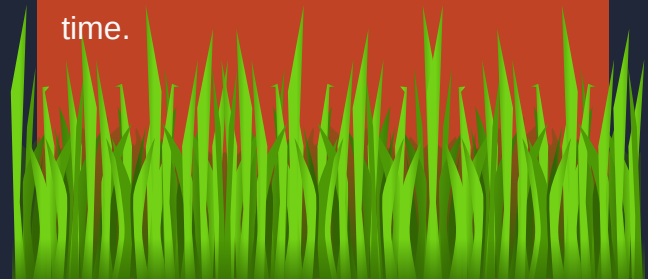
Laminitis is by far the most dangerous potential consequence of turnout into spring pasture. When horses and ponies, especially with underlying hormonal disease, graze these pastures, laminitis can develop. Laminitis causes severe inflammation of the soft tissue structures within the hoof capsule. Whilst managing your horse with spring grass may be time-consuming, it is in the best interest of your horse.

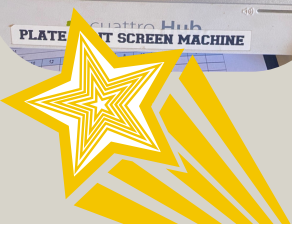
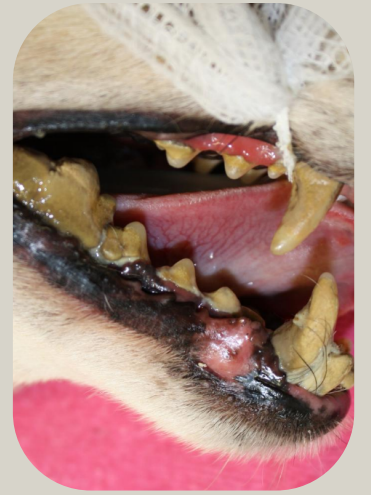
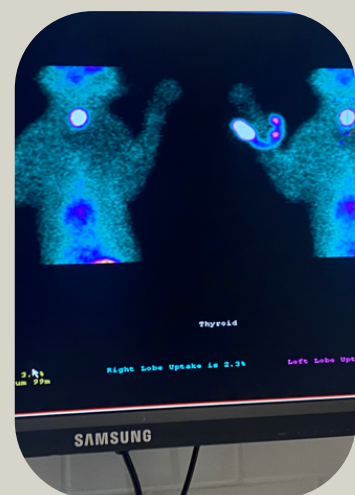
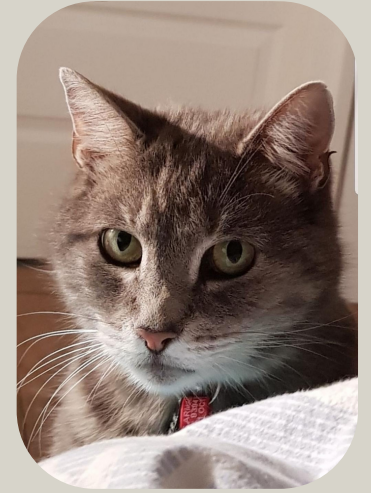
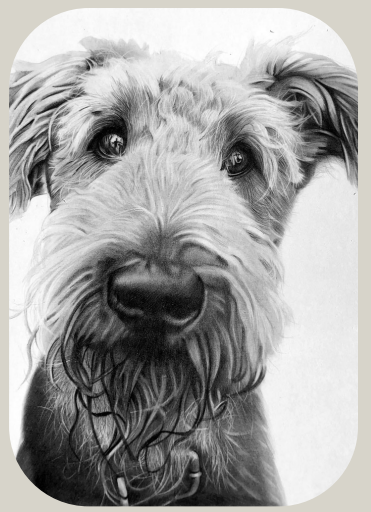
In WA where we have our main pasture growth in winter, spring especially and early summer become our high-risk times. As the high moisture content evaporates out of the lush winter grass, the grass becomes more concentrated in sugars. As it really starts to dry off in early summer, we often think the risk is over, however the grass is even more concentrated.



LAMINITIS MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES

1. Keep them at a healthy weight! An overweight horse or pony is at far greater risk of developing laminitis.
2. Limit grazing time to half an hour segments several times per day, and gradually increase the number and length of these access times.
3. Feed laminitis safe feeds only—soaked hay is usually all that's needed for horses that you are trying to get weight off.
4. Monitor digital pulses.
5. Increase exercise.
6. Feeding hay in slow feeder nets or inside two hay nets (“double netting”) can help slow down your horse or pony to prolong feeding time.





Some of our recent super star patients @ Perth Equine Hospital & Epsom Avenue Vet Clinic

BREEDING YOUR MARE



"There are many factors to consider when selecting a mare for breeding. The ideal mare is sound, of a good body condition, aged between 4 and 12 years old and in good general health."

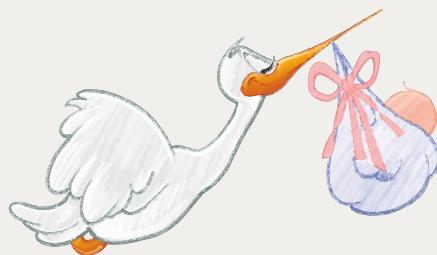
Dr Bec Caslick



Horses can be bred by live cover or artificial insemination with fresh semen, chilled semen, or frozen semen. Each technique has its own advantages and disadvantages, we are experienced with each different method and can talk you through what best suits your situation. Often the most important factor is choosing a stallion. Once you have chosen a stallion the method of breeding may be narrowed down to one or two options.

It always pays to have a good plan in place to have the most successful outcome with your mare. When it comes to breeding, careful planning with your veterinarian, along with taking precautions such as a breeding soundness exam and swabs prior to breeding, will always assist with the best possible opportunity to conceive and have a live, healthy foal next year.

We offer a variety of breeding packages. Contact the clinic for further details.





HOSPITAL NOTICES

Rye Grass Toxicity!

Ryegrass is a pasture, often mixed in with meadow hay that is fed to horses and other livestock. Although mainly safe, it has the potential to cause fatal poisoning if the ryegrass is toxic. The infection is caused by a toxin-producing bacterium *Rathayibacter toxicus* which is carried into the ryegrass by a nematode *Anguina funesta*.

Annual rye grass toxicity causes neurological signs. These are brought on by stress or activity. Horses that are observed closely may stop eating and show muscle tremors in the early stages.

Please remember to be vigilant. We have recently had 2 cases of rye grass toxicity, fed exclusively oaten hay!

Sponsored Rider News!

Congratulations to our sponsored junior rider Ellie Gough taking the win in a highly competitive class in the CCI2*L at the TeleMedVET Wooraloo International Three-Day Event, again beating all the senior riders. Dr Bec's daughter, Lucy is also commended for a win in the EVA Junior 80!



Repeat Prescriptions

Please remember to call ahead if you require repeat dispensing of medication. Our veterinarians need to authorise the dispensing, so calling ahead avoids unnecessary delays.

Emergency?

We are open 24/7 for emergencies. Simply dial 9479 1800 and your call will be directed to the veterinarian on call.

