



# Horse Talk

WELCOME to our winter edition of Horse Talk.

The winter months are always a little harder on our horses, and us!! We have a dental day coming up on the Monday 5th July and a Gastric ulcer clinic on Tuesday the 6th July. These days are both being held at our Equine Clinic on Haycock Road,

A few winter reminders to help you and your horse cope with the cold and the wet:

- As temperatures drop a horse must expend more energy to keep warm, hay should be available to your horse free choice – put out only enough that the horse cleans it all up daily. If he is overweight don't increase his hardfeed. Monitor his weight and make adjustments accordingly.
- Good nutrition, regular deworming, and good grooming will all help maintain a warm coat. Do not underestimate the importance of regular brushing. A dirty, matted coat loses much of its ability to insulate
- Hooves may need special attention during the winter. Regular hoof picking is all that is required to prevent thrush. Consider having the shoes removed if you will not be riding for several months.

## Dental Day—Monday 5th July

As we move into winter your horse's oral health becomes even more important. Ensuring your horses teeth and oral health is optimal will ensure your horse gets the most out of every mouthful, meaning less wastage and more energy available to keep them warm.

**Book in for our dental day package at a great discounted price.**

We will also have lots of products on display and advice on mud fever, worm programs, ulcer treatments, joint care and nutrition.

We will do faecal egg counts while you wait.

This is also an opportunity to have your horse microchipped and vaccinated for tetanus if they are due, at an additional cost.

Spot prizes to be won!!

Horses can be dropped off and left for the day by prior arrangement. Please call the clinic to book your appointment.



### Equine Dental Day Package

Health check  
Dental  
Blood test for Selenium  
Faecal egg count  
Sheath clean

only at Town & Country Vet Equine Clinic  
\$250—a saving of \$52

## Gastroscope Day—Tuesday 6th July

Concerned your horse may have stomach ulcers?

**Common signs of gastric ulcers include:**

- ◆ Weight loss/failure to thrive
- ◆ Behavioural changes eg nervousness, irritability
- ◆ Dull, harsh coat
- ◆ Reluctance to train
- ◆ Girthiness, wind sucking, crib-biting.
- ◆ Chronic diarrhoea
- ◆ Colic-usually intermittent, but may be severe

Please contact Laurie at the clinic for information and to book your horse in for scoping

## TO DRENCH OR NOT TO DRENCH

Equine intestinal parasite control does not have to be complicated. Follow the basic principles and work together with your vet to establish the optimum drenching strategy. The result will be peace of mind about the health of your horse.

The main concern when choosing a drench is that it is effective. A broad spectrum anthelmintic that covers all the intestinal parasites is a good choice for most horses all year round but limited spectrum drenches can be used strategically at certain times of the year.

Performing Faecal Egg Counts before and after treatment is called a Faecal Egg Count Reduction Test (FECRT) and is a useful guide to ensure your drench is effective. Regular monitoring of this will also ensure early detection of any problems with the drenching regime.

### The aims of drenching:

We worm drench horses under 3 years of age primarily to reduce the occurrence of clinical disease. The worms we are targeting are:

**Tapeworms:** (*Anoplocephala perfoliata*) that can cause spasmodic and ileal impaction colic.

**Large roundworm of foals:** (*Parascaris equorum*) can cause diarrhoea, ill-thrift, colic and even death.

**Large Strongyles:** liver spots and artery blockage. Less common now but not out!

**Bots:** nasal and intestinal species. Probably not clinically significant in New Zealand but need to be treated.

**Cyathostomins:** these are the 'small redworm' whose larvae can become inhibited in the gut wall and that can cause ill-thrift, weight loss, serious illness, colic and even death when they emerge.

Drenching older stock (over 3 years old) is done primarily to try and reduce the amount of eggs that they are putting out onto the pasture that then re-infect the young stock. Sometimes older horses can be affected clinically if they get large enough worm burdens.

### Reducing contamination

- Remove faeces at least twice weekly
- Avoid over stocking paddocks
- Provide feeder for hay or grain so horses don't eat supplements directly off the ground
- Cross graze with cattle, sheep or deer. They help "clean up" a pasture by ingesting the eggs and larvae, which do not cause a problem in them.

As nursing foals and yearling are more susceptible to parasites, they should be grazed on pastures that have low parasite burdens such as rested or cross grazed pastures.

We highly recommend that you do regular faecal egg counts on your horses to determine your own horses worm status. All you need to do is drop us a small (1 nugget of manure is plenty in a clean jar or bag) sample of manure and we will do the rest for you.

Contact us to arrange a Faecal Egg Count or for advice on how to best manage your on farm equine parasite program.

