



# Horse Talk

**WELCOME** to our autumn edition of Horse Talk.

Many of you have already met our **new equine vet Brett Tennent-Brown**.

Brett has a Masters in Equine Exercise Physiology and is Board Certified with the American Colleges of Veterinary Internal Medicine and Emergency and Critical Care.

He was Associate Professor of Equine Medicine at the University of Melbourne and previously taught and worked at prestigious North American universities including the University of Illinois, the University of Pennsylvania and the University of Georgia.

He worked for almost 10 years in the University of Melbourne's veterinary teaching hospital before he and wife Charity moved back to New Zealand.



## New Vets

We also have two new vets that have joined our practice who you will meet at some time—



Sally Hill is originally from Christchurch and moved with her two dressage horses in tow. She's enjoying exploring the Nelson -Tasman area, running in the hills or at the beach.



Cassie Lundie has spent most of her life on a lifestyle block near sunny Otaki. She loves all animals big and small, with a special place in her heart for lifestyle block animals, especially a pet pig or two!



We've heard your suggestions and we are trying something new.  
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## FOAL CARE

Looking after your newest equine star is important, but easy with the following reminders:

**Tetanus Vaccination** - Start your foal vaccination programme from 3 months of age. Two vaccinations are given 4 weeks apart, a third vaccination is given no more than a year from the second one.

**Worming** - Foals are most susceptible to developing clinical disease from parasites due to their immature immune system. Worming foals should start at 6 weeks of age with an ivermectin/ abamectin based drench. They should be drenched again at 12 weeks with a drench that contains pyrantel or fenbendazole.

It is important to do a fecal egg count on young stock every 4-6 weeks following this period and drench when appropriate. Young stock are more susceptible to parasite burdens due to their immature immune systems.

**Hoof Care** –Unless your veterinarian suggests otherwise, foals should have their first trim around one month of age and remain on a monthly schedule. In those first few months of life, more attention should be paid to the structural integrity of the foot (size and mass) than to its cosmetic appearance. The goals are to promote the growth of thick, durable hoof wall; ensure maximum sole depth to protect the white line and coffin bone; and establish a strong heel base. A light rasp by a qualified farrier is often all that is required.

It's important young horses grow slowly— too fast and intensive growth—can be detrimental on the musculoskeletal system. Monitor the condition and adjust feeding. Aim for looking light/good but not too heavy.



### Paying Your Account Online?

Please make sure your client code is correct— your client code should be in the reference field.

We don't need your horse or cat or dogs names!

If you have an existing online payment set up please check your client code and reference field.

These are opportunities to get your foal used to being handled in a calm and quiet manner before and after weaning —vital for the vet or farrier to safely treat them for paddock injuries or lameness. If planning to castrate your weanling colts give them plenty of handling before their vet appointment. Colts can be castrated after 6 months.

## Taking care of the Mare

The basics are still important and with a pregnant mare, you are taking care of the mare as well as the foal. As always, horses should always be in a safe paddock with adequate fencing and be checked daily. Hoof trimming and worming should be regularly carried out.

With a pregnant mare, it is important to check for any signs of early udder development or vaginal discharge. If any of these are seen, contact us at the clinic as it could be an early sign of infection / abortion.

Usually, autumn pasture is adequate and that is all the mare needs. She should have a Body Condition Score (BCS) of around 5.5-7 (out of 10). If the mare is overweight this is a good time to bring her body condition score down to where it needs to be.

Equine Herpes virus Type 1 is the single most important infectious cause of abortion in horses. Vaccination plays a major part in the control of this disease, and offers the best insurance against the risk of an abortion storm causing major financial losses

Vaccination is especially important if the mare is going to foal at a stud or is on a property where horses come and go a lot as she will be at risk for exposure to this virus.

Pregnant mares should be vaccinated against Herpesvirus at 5, 7 and 9 months of pregnancy. The vaccine is extremely safe and is routinely used to vaccinate pregnant mares to protect the foal they are carrying.

(03) 544 1200

24 HOUR  
Emergency  
SERVICES

# PARASITE CONTROL

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.

### Winter WOF

Dental

Blood test for Selenium

Faecal egg count

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