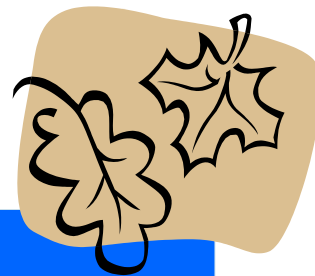


Warby Street Veterinary Hospital

Some good rain and mild Autumn weather to ease us into the colder months

Autumn edition 2010



Wangaratta Equine Hospital - Opening After Easter

After much planning, consultation, building and preparation we are pleased to announce that the Wangaratta Equine Hospital (WEH) will be opening its doors from Tuesday the 6th of April.

The hospital will be staffed and run by the Warby St Veterinary Hospital with Drs Graeme Blanch and Andrew Bett as the directors.

The facility has been purpose built as a specialist equine hospital in conjunction with the Goulburn Ovens TAFE (GOTAFE) and forms part of the National Centre for Equine Education (NCEE).

The hospital will house an equine operating theatre and anaesthetic recovery boxes as well as state of the art equipment for endoscopy, arthroscopy and radiography. There is also a stable block with over half a dozen stalls to allow surgical and medical patients to be hospitalised for observation and treatment.

It is an exciting development for the treatment of horses in the North East as it will



provide the ability to hospitalise patients for intensive or ongoing care and also allow surgery to be performed in a sterile and controlled environment rather than out in the field. The end result is a much higher standard of care for equine patients.

WEH has retained the services of several travelling specialist equine surgeons for more in depth surgical cases. And, will soon be looking for a permanent specialist surgeon to complement the current equine veterinary team. This will allow specialist treatment for horses locally.

WEH and Warby St Vet Hospital together will continue to provide a 24 hour emergency on call service to our equine clients, but with the added benefit of offering

hospitalisation at the new facility rather than referral further afield for these services.

The hospital can be contacted by telephone on (03) 5722 3400 for any enquiries. However you are more than welcome to continue to organise horse calls and work through the Warby St branch on (03) 5721 7177. The new WEH facility is located at the NCEE/GOTAFE site on Tone Rd, Wangaratta VIC. If you are heading out Tone Rd towards the highway the site is on the right hand side. It is the last built up facility on the right before you leave town. "You can't miss it!"



HAPPY EASTER



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The Perils of Easter!!

Easter is less than a week away so just a quick reminder about chocolate and your pets before they get into the easter egg stash. Chocolate can be extremely dangerous to cats and dogs. The cocoa used to make chocolate contains a compound called theobromine which can affect the animal's central nervous system and also cause a rapid heart rate and arrhythmias. The more cocoa in the chocolate the more poisonous it is, making dark/cooking chocolates and especially cocoa powder the worst culprits. If your pet does inadvertently get into the chocolates it is best to give us a call for advice. We may need you to bring your pet in to induce vomiting.



It is best to avoid giving your dog any chocolate at all. If you must give your dog an egg at Easter why not make it a real egg. They will probably enjoy it more and it will do wonders for their coat too. Happy Easter!!

The Signs of Arthritis in Older Cats

Arthritis in older cats is more common than most people realise. Cats rarely show overt signs of pain that would be commonly recognised, such as vocalisation or limping. Most of the changes which are observed are attributed to “slowing down” with old age.

Research has shown that 34% of cats over the age of 12 have spinal arthritis. 64% of cats aged 15 or over have arthritis in at least 1 limb. Less than half of the cats suffering arthritis showed any signs of lameness.

Symptoms of arthritis in cats are generally very subtle. When in severe pain, cats appear withdrawn & quiet, & will just sit in a hunched position. Symptoms of chronic pain can include: weight loss, depression or aggression, problems with toileting (including doing it in inappropriate places) & poor grooming. Often they are less confident in jumping up to or down from a higher place. They will hesitate before jumping, take it in several stages (eg using a bedside table to jump up onto a bed), fail to reach their goal on their first attempt, or nearly make it & have to pull themselves up by their claws – where they used to make it easily. When jumping down from a height, they will land with a “clunk” rather than just “pour themselves down” in a cat-like way.

Help is available for cats suffering from arthritis. We have a range of anti-inflammatory drugs to make them more comfortable, plus several chondro-protectants (medications to make the joint cartilage more healthy) which can really improve their quality of life. In some cases it is a good idea to carry out further diagnostic work such as x-rays or blood tests before starting treatment. In some cases, cats can have concurrent kidney or thyroid disease which can affect the course of treatment and may also need to be treated to have a successful outcome. In some cases, x-rays can show up a severe problem which can be relieved by surgery, or help pinpoint the location of the problem.

Medication has been specifically formulated for cats' special needs, & with careful attention to your cat's particular needs, a great improvement in their quality of life can be achieved during their older years.

“King Valley Run”

A service provided every Tuesday charging **TRAVEL fees** from Glenrowan, Greta, Moyhu or Milawa.

“Beechworth & Myrtleford Valley Run”

A service provided every Thursday charging **TRAVEL fees** from Markwood, Everton, Beechworth and Myrtleford

PROUD FLESH IN HORSES

A normal part of wound healing is the formation of granulation tissue to fill any tissue defects. In horses, the production of this granulation tissue often becomes excessive, and is known as 'proud flesh'. It can extend beyond the edges of the wound and prevent wound healing.



For a wound to heal, epithelial (skin) cells move from the outside of the wound gradually inwards, over the bed of granulation tissue. When proud flesh has formed a bulging mushroom, the skin cannot contract and heal properly. Proud flesh occurs most commonly on the limbs. There are several ways to both prevent and remove proud flesh, but it is important to realise that the formation of a granulation tissue bed is required for good wound healing.

Prevention:

- bandaging leg wounds can help prevent proud flesh
- Chemical restriction with Yellow Lotion, Prednoderma or Lotagen. These should not be applied until a granulation tissue bed has formed (3-7 days post injury). When applied at this time, care should be taken not to put onto the edge of the wound where epithelialization of skin is occurring, as this will delay healing of the wound.

Removal:

- Excessive proud flesh can be removed surgically via a scalpel (bleed profusely), or

chemically with copper sulphate.

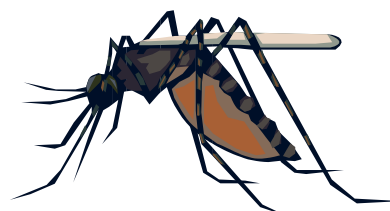
With proper and well timed management, the formation of proud flesh can be controlled and wounds healed quite quickly. Be ready with control measures such as Yellow Lotion or Prednoderma when you leave a bandage off a leg wound, as this is when it develops quite quickly.

It is important to remember that a defect in tissue must 'fill' with granulation tissue to allow proper healing, so don't spray the Yellow Lotion around as soon as the horse injures itself or you see pink granulation tissue. Wait until the defect is filled level to the edges of the skin before applying.

Sarah Norman BVSc



Mosquitoes *bzzzz bzzzzz bzzzz*



With the recent rain and warm weather I think everyone has noticed a jump in the number of mosquitoes getting around the North East. Mosquito bites in animals can certainly cause a lot of irritation and itching, but the mosquito can also be an important carrier of disease from one animal to another. There are a variety of viral and parasitic diseases that can be transmitted by mosquitoes which can affect dogs, cats, horses and cattle.

In the simplest cases mosquito bites are itchy, but in more severe cases they can actually trigger off an allergic response resulting in raised welts or rashes. This is especially common in horses and a good reason to use a light rug in the evenings at the moment.

Of the infectious diseases carried by mosquitoes the most important are Ross River Fever and Heartworm. Ross River Fever can affect horses causing lethargy, stiffness and poor performance. It can also infect dogs, but they tend not to show any symptoms associated with the infection. The Ross River Virus can also infect humans causing flu-like symptoms and aching joints. The mosquito is an essential part of the heartworm lifecycle and as mosquitoes are so mobile animals are at risk of this disease even if they do not directly come in contact with other animals. After the mosquito bite the heartworm works its way to the heart and large blood vessels of the lungs where it impairs cardiorespiratory function and may lead to death if not treated. Luckily heartworm is easily prevented with either monthly tablets or a yearly injection.

Like with many things prevention is better than cure. Heartworm prevention is relatively cheap and easy. Reducing your pet's exposure to mosquitoes by rugging or bringing them in at dusk is also a good idea. There are also pet specific fly and mosquito repellents such as Musca-ban and Advantix which help prevent bites. Hopefully with these tips your animals can remain worry and itch free through the next few weeks.

Tim Craig BVSc



Newsletters online

Would you like to receive our quarterly newsletters via Email?

If so, fill out the form below and drop it in to us at Warby Street (or fill out one at reception).

Name:
(first name) (surname)

Email Address:
(please print clearly)