



Equine Newsletter

Autumn 2022



CVC Clinic News

Welcome to the first Equine newsletter for 2022!

The focus of this month is on preventative healthcare.

Autumn is great time to make sure our horses are protected from conditions such as tetanus, strangles and internal parasites such as bots and worms. Autumn is also an excellent time to be testing and diagnosing

Equine Cushing's - if you have a horse you are concerned has Cushing's let us know!

We are very excited to get our equine health care package up and running so please have a read and give us a call if you would like to book in a visit for your ponies!

Camperdown Veterinary Centre

1 Leura Street , Camperdown

Ph: (03) 5593 1077

Hours:

- 8:00am – 5:30pm (Monday – Friday)
- 8:30am – 12:00pm (Saturday)

Medication and food collections only on Saturday mornings

24-hour emergency service available by calling 5593 1077 and pressing "1" .

Bot flies and horses!

The horse bot fly or *Gasterophilus intestinalis* as it is known scientifically, is one of the biggest pests annoying horses and owners alike throughout the warmer months. Bot flies have an interesting life cycle which relies on the horse to continue.

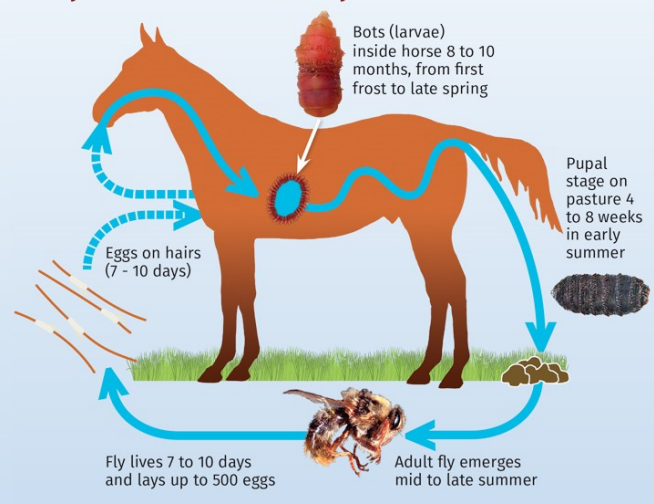
Female adult flies lay eggs on horses legs, nose and bodies which horses then lick. The eggs hatch into maggots that are ingested by the horse and become imbedded in their gums and tongue. After approximately a month, the maggots migrate to the stomach where the larvae attach to the lining of the stomach and the intestinal tract. They stay there during the winter then in Spring, detach and are passed out through your horse's manure . They burrow into the ground to mature for about 3-5 weeks then emerge as adults to start the cycle all over again .

In some cases, if left unmanaged bots can cause mouth inflammation, gastric ulceration or colic.

To prevent bot flies causing issues in your horses it is recommended to:

- Remove bot fly eggs daily using a "bot knife"
- Drench horses at the end of autumn (once flies have gone) and beginning of spring to kill larvae and to interrupt the life cycle of the fly and larvae. Drenches containing ivermectin or moxidectin are usually effective.

Life Cycle of Common Horse Botfly

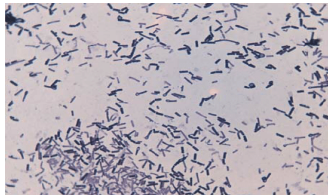


TETANUS IN HORSES

Tetanus, is an often-fatal bacterial disease caused by the organism *Clostridium tetani*, which is found in soil and droppings. It's found all over the world and can affect humans as well as horses.

The bacterium can survive as spores in the environment for long periods of time, and while it is in the soil, it's harmless. However, the bacteria can enter the body through wounds, particularly puncture wounds, if the wound is dirty. The tetanus bacteria do not need oxygen (they are classified as 'anaerobic' bacteria) and so they multiply rapidly in the damaged tissues at the site of the injury. The bacteria produce a powerful nerve toxin, causing distressing symptoms and death in about 80% of cases.

The risk of tetanus is pretty much everywhere as the organism that causes it, *Clostridium tetani*, lives in soil and manure and it enters the body through wounds. Horses are particularly at risk because of their environment and tendency to injure themselves. The good news, however, is that tetanus is not contagious, so it is not passed from horse to horse.



There may be a delay of 1 to 3 weeks after infection, before symptoms of tetanus appear. More commonly, symptoms will appear after 9 or 10 days. Affected horses will have progressive muscle stiffness, causing:

- The tail to become stiff and stand straight out
- The ears to stand erect
- An anxious facial expression caused by facial muscle stiffness – your horse may look like it is "smiling" or "grimacing"
- Eating difficulties.

Sources of contamination include:

- Horses can become infected through gastric or intestinal ulcers after eating contaminated soil or droppings.
- Wounds, especially deep wounds, are a key source of infection. Common sites of infection are the soles of the horse's feet, although even a simple thorn prick can allow the bacteria to enter the body. Surgical wounds are another possible source of entry for the bacteria.
- Foals can become infected via their navel where the umbilical cord was attached.
- The mare's reproductive tract may also become infected, if it's damaged or the placenta is retained.



Over time, more and more muscles go into spasm. The horse will have convulsions and respiratory failure. Sadly, within a few days of the first signs appearing, approximately 80% of horses will die.

Tetanus is a totally and easily preventable disease. Vaccination with 'tetanus toxoid' should be used for all horses and ponies.

- You can vaccinate your horse against tetanus with Equivac® T or Equivac® 2 in 1, available from CVC.
- Your horse can get this vaccination from 3 months of age. If using Equivac T, the primary course is two doses no less than 4 weeks apart. If using Equivac 2in1 which provides protection from Tetanus and strangles, the initial course should include 3 doses 2 weeks apart. The Equine Infectious Disease Advisory Board recommends a booster dose every 12 months to ensure maximum protection against Tetanus.
- For immediate short-term prevention of tetanus, your vet may suggest Equivac® TAT. We often use this when horses have sustained an open wound injury to provide immediate protection in unvaccinated horses.



EQUINE STRANGLES

Strangles is a highly contagious respiratory disease of horses that is caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus equi* subspecies *equi* (commonly referred to as 'Strep equi'). The disease is highly infectious and can easily and rapidly spread from horse to horse.

How do horses get Strangles?

The strangles bacteria is spread by direct contact with the horse's nasal discharge, pus from discharging abscesses, or even the infected horse coughing on another horse. Bacteria can also spread to an uninfected horse via contaminated objects such as people's hands, clothing or even equipment such as halters, water buckets and feed bins.

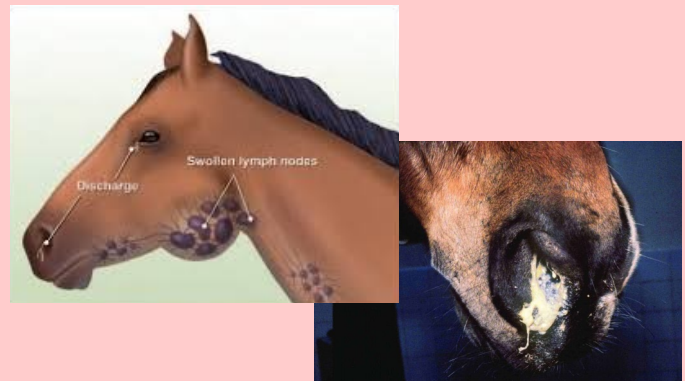
Young horses typically have lower levels of immunity to the strangles bacterium than older horses, and when new horses are mixed together, the stress levels increase in these young horses, further decreasing the strength of their immune system and making them more susceptible to disease

Yearly boosters are required to maintain an adequate level of immunity, however, increased protection against strangles may be obtained by giving booster doses more frequently, for example every six months in high risk situations such as racing stables or studs.

Common clinical signs of Strangles may include:

- Nasal discharge
- Fever
- Difficulty swallowing
- Loss of appetite
- Depression
- Coughing
- Laboured breathing due to enlarged lymph nodes.

These distressing clinical signs can persist for days or weeks. Most horses recover, but they may need to be isolated for 6 to 8 weeks to avoid infecting other horses.



VACCINATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Adult horses already vaccinated

- Tetanus booster every 5 years (EquivacT)
- Strangles booster every 6-12 months, depending on risk (EquivacS)

OR

- Equivac2in1 booster every 12 months. Covers both tetanus and strangles.

New horses or horses with unknown vaccination history

Start the initial course of 3 doses of Equivac 2in1, 2 weeks apart.

The vaccines are very safe and it is recommended to start again if vaccination history is unknown.

“One” shot of the vaccine does not provide long lasting immunity, all animals should have 3 doses in the initial course to be protected.

Horses travelling to NSW or QLD

- Hendra vaccination (EquivacHeV) is recommended for horses travelling to QLD and northern NSW
- Vaccine must be administered by a vet
- Horses must be microchipped to receive the vaccine
- 4 doses at varying intervals are required for full protection

Foals

- Foals can be vaccinated against tetanus and strangles from 12 weeks of age.
- Should have 3 doses of Equivac 2in1, 2 weeks apart.

Broodmares

- Should always have initial course as a foal/young horse
- Booster vaccines should be given 2-4 weeks prior to foaling so that immunity can be passed onto foals that drink colostrum.

Care for your friend...

Purchase any Equivac™ or EQUEST® and enter the draw to WIN* a Uniden camera to protect your stable



Equivac™2in1 provides effective protection for your horse against Strangles and Tetanus



Long Acting EQUEST Plus Tape

Unique single dose Gel formulation to control bots, tapeworm, and gastrointestinal roundworms.



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*Offer based on purchases from 15th March to 30th April 2022

Terms and Conditions apply. Contact clinic for details

^ See product label for registered claims. Equivac™ and EQUEST® are registered trademarks of Zoetis Australia Pty Ltd, 5 Rider Boulevard, Rhodes NSW 2138. © 2022 Zoetis Inc. All rights reserved. February 2022



WORMS + HORSES—A NEW APPROACH!

The way we manage internal parasites in horses has changed dramatically in the last few years. Traditionally, parasite control has involved rotational treatment with de-wormers at 6-8-week intervals. This approach is based on concepts and strategies developed more than 40 years ago when large strongyles were the most common and damaging internal parasite in horses. Now days, the most common internal parasite of mature horses is **small strongyles otherwise known as cyathostomins**. Additionally, resistance of some equine worms to common wormer ingredients has begun to emerge.



The main goals of a deworming program are to prevent parasitic disease by minimising pasture contamination with worm eggs and minimise the development of worm resistance to dewormers. The preservation of refugia (population of worms that have not developed resistance to dewormers) can be achieved by NOT deworming all horses. Selective deworming acknowledges that horses don't need to be parasite-free in order to prevent clinical disease, and in fact, that achieving a parasite-free horse is neither possible nor desirable.

Treatment requirements should be based on faecal egg count examination and may vary between horses. FEC results are expressed in "eggs per gram" (epg) which represents a standardised measure of the number of eggs per gram of faeces. Based on this number we can determine whether a horse has a low, moderate or high worm burden and make informed decisions about whether the horse requires treatment. If used correctly, a FEC can decrease your reliance on worming treatments and extend the life of wormers used today!

Key points regarding deworming of ADULT HORSES:

- Avoid using dewormers that target the encysted larvae, such as moxidectin, on a regular basis. These dewormers should be reserved for horses that need treatment for parasitic disease.
- Only select horses with high FEC for deworming. Your vet will advise whether your horse needs deworming when we call through your results.
- Once a year, preferably in autumn, all horses should be dewormed with a product containing praziquantel for possible tapeworm infections.
- Keep pastures as clean as possible. It takes at least 2 days (longer in cold weather) for eggs to hatch and develop to infective larvae that horses ingest. This is an ideal window to remove faeces from paddocks if possible, which will go a long way to reducing the number of worm eggs and larvae on the pasture.

CVC Autumn 2022 in-clinic promotion

Anyone who buys an Equest wormer from CVC between **21st of March and 30th of April** will go into the draw to win a stable camera from Zoetis!



Equine Health Care Package

Healthy horse = happy horse!

Annual health checks and vaccinations are a common practice for our cats and dog companions so why don't we consider it essential for our larger companions?

CVC is excited to announce a new Equine Health Care Package to equine clients to ensure your horses and ponies stay at their healthiest and happiest all year round!

The equine health care package aims to provide an annual health assessment of your horse and address any preventative health needs such as vaccination, deworming, and dental health.



The package includes the following:

- An extensive clinical examination by one of our vets including body condition scoring, hoof and musculoskeletal assessment, skin assessment, weighing and cardiovascular assessment.
- A dental health examination to identify any pathology or dentistry requirements
- Vaccination booster administration
- Any blood testing that may be required for monitoring or diagnosis*
- Four (4) faecal egg counts to be used throughout the year
- Medication compliance for 12 months—you can get prescription medications for this patient for 12 months if required
- An Equest dewormer

Valued at over \$700, this package aims to promote regular preventative health care in our horses so they can live long and happy lives. **Afterall, prevention is better than cure!**

We are also offering a group discount if you book in 2 or more horses on one day, so why not get a group together and take the first step to having happier healthier horses!

If you are interested in booking your horses in for their annual health check or have any questions regarding the package, please do not hesitate to contact the clinic on 5593 1077.

Please note travel charges may vary depending on location. We do have an equine facility available for use if you would like to travel to us.



* additional diagnostic charges will apply.