



Updates from the hospital

News



Jodie Joins CVH

Our latest addition to the CVH team is Jodie Hardington. Jodie hails from Goulburn. She has a certificate II and III in Animal Studies and is currently study a certificate IV in Veterinary Nursing.

Jodie works as a disability support worker while not at CVH. She also has 3 boys which keep her on her toes.

She has a passion for animals and special fondness for cats with four of her own, as well as a Chihuahua named Ellie. Jodie is a bundle of energy and can be seen zipping around the clinic keeping on top of all the many jobs that need to be done to keep a busy clinic like CVH working smoothly.

Don't forget your FECs
 With the warmer weather and lots of spring lambs about, worm numbers are likely to rise. Worm burdens in sheep cause reduced weight gain and break in wool and even death. Early detection of worm burdens can help treat the problem before it has an impact on your flocks production.
 Strategically drenching with the knowledge of FECs can save you unnecessary drenching, therefore time and money. Don't forget to do follow up tests, so you know your drench is working. Ring us or drop in and talk to one of the vets about developing a strategic drenching program.

Heat Stroke

As temperatures start to climb, the risk of our pets and working dogs developing heat stroke increases. Heat stroke is a medical emergency. It occurs when heat generation exceeds the body's ability to dissipate (lose) heat and the impact can be catastrophic, leading to multiple organ failure, brain damage and death.

Signs of heat stroke include:

- Dogs can't sweat like us, they cool down by panting—excessive, heavy panting is one of the first signs of heatstroke
- Mucous membranes inside the mouth become bright red to purple.
- Vomiting and diarrhoea
- Restlessness progresses to signs of exhaustion and confusion, and the affected dog will stagger and lose balance
- Muscle tremors and seizures can occur
- As the severity of heat stroke progresses the dog will collapse, become comatose, and death can quickly follow.

What to do at home:

- Immediately remove the dog from the heat and, if possible without wasting precious time, spray your pet dog with cold water while ring us to say you're on the way. If the dog is not yet vomiting, offer fresh water. **DON'T PUT YOUR DOG IN ICE BATH.**
- Put wet towels over your dog and get them to the vet clinic as quickly as possible.

What the vet does:

- Your dog needs to be cooled gradually, over cooling your pet can be catastrophic
- At the vet hospital, the pet is immediately put onto an I/V drip.
- We continue to cool the dog while constantly monitoring body temperature—it's important not to cause an equally severe drop in temperature during the cooling process.
- Blood tests may be performed to determine if any organ damaged has occurred.

Prevention is better than cure, animals affected by heat stroke often become much more susceptible in the future. Make sure your animals have plenty of fresh water and shade at all times. Check on them regularly on hot days.



Left: excessive panting.



Right: Brick red membranes

Updates from the field

Laminitis in horses

Laminitis or founder is a disease of horses and ponies that causes severe pain and can be very difficult to treat if allowed to progress. Spring is commonly when we see cases of laminitis, due to the lush green pasture growth, especially after rain and warm weather.

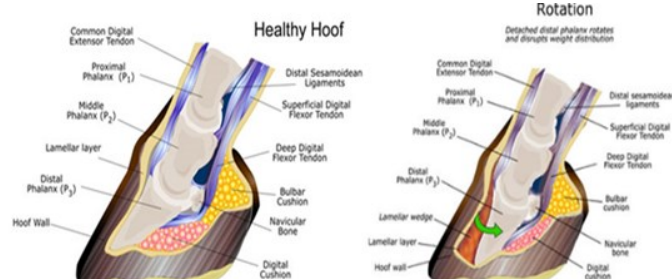
Laminitis is complex, with multiple precipitating causes. Laminitis refers to the inflammation of the tissue (laminae) between the hoof wall and the underlying distal phalanx (coffin or pedal) bone. When inflamed, these laminae can separate from the outer hoof wall. The separation causes the pedal bone inside the hoof to rotate down towards the sole. Laminitis can affect one or all feet, but it's most commonly seen in both front feet. Affected horses find it extremely painful to stand or walk around.

What causes laminitis

- One of the most common is obesity. The classic founder case is a fat pony allow unlimited access to lush feed with no exercise.
- Sudden intake of carbohydrates—e.g. if a horse gets access to large amounts of grain. This can cause severe acute laminitis. This is an emergency don't wait for symptoms ring us immediately.
- Acute infections, including uterine infections following retention of membranes from more than 8hrs post foaling.
- Hormonal diseases such as Cushing's have been linked.
- Previous history of laminitis predispose to future cases.
- Severe colic.
- Excessive concussive force to the feet.
- Genetics

Signs of laminitis

- Reluctance to move
- Standing with feet apart, leaning backwards (trying to take pressure of the toes—Sawhorse stance).
- The hooves are hot to touch
- Shifting from foot to foot, lying down frequently.
- In chronic cases the hoof changes shape, the toes grows longer as the heel grows faster than the toe.
- Overweight horses and ponies can develop a thickened crest on the neck.



Above top: Classic 'Sawhorse' stance with head and tail extended, the horse is balancing with all four feet planted apart. Above bottom: a healthy hoof and the rotation of the pedal bone (distal phalanx).

Prevention

It's far better to manage your horse's health and prevent laminitis

- Control your horses weight
- Keep all grain stored securely out of reach of horses
- Introduce horses to rich pastures slowly
- Call us if you suspect your horse has and infection
- Never leave retained membranes
- Be aware that stress of any kind can also initiate laminitis
- Feeding products such as FounderGuard to aid in reducing the risk of laminitis in susceptible horses.

Treatment

Treatment can be difficult and intensive. It can involve removing the animal from the precipitating cause, anti-inflammatories and depending on changes to the hoof structure, corrective trimming. Unfortunately in some cases despite the best efforts the pain can be so severe then the nicest thing is to humanely euthanise the horse

Contact us

Opening hours 8.30am—5.30pm Monday to Friday | 9am—12pm Saturday

24 hour emergency service

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