



## THE RIVERS EQUINE VETS



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Our phone number is still the same!

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*"Horses are like potato chips  
... you can't just have one!"*  
Author unknown.

### Welcome to Our First Newsletter!

As you know, we have had a change of name. But although the name has changed, our business ethics remains the same. From our base in the beautiful Tweed Valley of Northern NSW, our team operates a modern and progressive Ambulatory Equine practice. As a team of dedicated professionals, we are committed to ensuring the best possible outcomes for your horse or donkey. In this newsletter, we aim to bring you the latest developments in equine care, and provide valuable information and tips to owners. Winter has set in and can be a challenging time of year when caring for equine stock. The winds from winter storms can be deadly to stock who don't have adequate shelter. For new or established owners, we are here for you if you wish to discuss any query you may have. Give us a call and one of our experienced vets will be able to assist you.

### Dental Care is Essential

Did you know that your horse can suffer from excruciating pain caused by the nerves that supply the upper and lower teeth? Like ourselves, your horse can experience pain caused by a fractured tooth, oral ulcers, or tooth root infection that can result in an abscess. Horses have two sets of teeth during their lifetime, but those teeth get worn away by the constant chewing and grinding process when feeding. Luckily when one tooth is worn away the extra tooth or reserve crown below the gumline erupts to fill the former tooth's place. Due to this unique dental structure, a horse has enough teeth to last them well into their twenties or longer. While this set up sounds ideal, it can have its problems.

The tooth being erupted and the one worn away must stay perfectly in balance or pain will be the result. In response to the pain of unbalanced dental development, your horse will change the way they eat to avoid the pain. This rapidly affects the wear and tear of the teeth. Horses have a unique four-part cycle, in which any change to their chewing can put pressure on the cheeks and tongue of the horse. The sharp edges which result can in turn cause cuts that become ulcers, and when you add in a bacterial infection your horse can end up with severe pain in the mouth!

Not every owner feels confident looking deep into their horse's mouth. But there are signs that your horse has a problem even without trying to prize open their jaws! Bad breath is an often a good indication regarding dental decay. Every year your horse should have a dental check by an Equine Dental Vet like ourselves. You can be sure that we are regulated by a governing body and are bound by legislation to ensure animal welfare and the use of ethical practices. To find out more about our equine dental services, check out [our website](#).

Check out our New **Facebook** page

Please [click here](#) for more information about Equine care.

### Remember that The Rivers Equine Vets come to You!

We deal with vaccinations, hoof care, tetanus shots, as well as advising with worm prevention and treatment, nutrition, and supplements. Due to demand, we are expanding into reproduction. If you have any equine problems... please call us, we can help!

Tip—Worms have the annoying ability to build up resistance to drugs or chemicals used against them. Rotating your treatments of pasture and internal medication for your horses can help outwit those pesky parasites.



## Shelter for your horse.

During the longer winter days, shelter needs to be available for your horse or donkey, as in some areas the temperature can drop considerably.

Trees or a walk-in building such as a shed can offer suitable shelter allowing the animals to get some respite from the chilling winds. Ensure that your fences are in good repair. This will help to prevent injuries or will stop your horse escaping to visit the neighboring farm! Remove rubbish and weeds from the paddock to ensure your horses or donkeys have a safe area to roam. Horses enjoy company, so make sure they are not alone.

### Q. How do you make a small fortune breeding horses?

A. Start with a large fortune!



### Do You Have a Problem with Your Horse or Donkey?

Our Vets Dr. Greg Baldwin,  
Dr. Simone McColgan & Dr. Matt MacKee are the experts to talk to.  
Phone 02 6672 3898

## Parasite Control Begins with Pasture Management.

Winter has less parasites, not that they ever really sleep, but during the colder months, they are less invasive. Controlling internal parasites or worms is vital for the health of your horse. Parasites may be tiny, but they are the silent thieves and killers. The damage that they inflict on an animal can often go unnoticed until the problem becomes severe. Parasite control often begins with paddock management. Parasites spend a significant part of their lifecycle in the pasture, so the goal of pasture care is to disrupt the cycle from the egg and larval stage. Some tips for pasture management includes:

- Regular removal of manure – especially in smaller paddocks.
- Turn over the turf and letting the soil rest during sunny winter days. Allow about 8 weeks for the sun to kill the parasite eggs.
- Keep your horse stock as low as possible to reduce the worm eggs.
- Ensure your foaling boxes and stables are clean and disinfected.
- Use feed bins or hayracks rather than putting the food directly onto the ground.

Use your low worm contaminated pastures for foals and younger horses as they are the most susceptible to worm infestations. Growth is notoriously slow in pastures during the cold months.

But winter is an ideal time to plan ahead for your pastures. Once winter is over the lessons learned can only make next winter better.

## The Practical Approach to Horse Ownership.

Good horsemanship is more common sense than rocket science!

- Plenty of clean water should always be available and protected from freezing.
- A good quality feed promotes health. Your stock may need more food during winter to help them keep them warm.
- Foot care is important. Check your horse's feet before and after riding. Make sure you clean their hooves after muddy rides.
- Do not exercise your horse after a heavy meal.
- A well-maintained saddle and girth are kind to your horse, and a clean saddle blanket provides vital comfort.
- Check your saddle – check for pressure areas for any chafing.
- Build your horse up to a longer ride. Just like us, fitness comes through conditioning.
- Horses are very intelligent; they can learn bad habits as quickly as good habits.
- Have a good equine vet as your back up; we can advise of the various options available to you for worm control, vaccinations, dental care, and hoof care and so much more.

A well thought out plan for care of your horse and/or donkey will enable them to live a longer and healthier life. You can trust The Rivers Equine Vets – we offer a service that embraces all aspects of equine care and we practice preventative care. If you have any questions, please call us.

Please Visit Our Website at

[www.theriversequinevets.com.au](http://www.theriversequinevets.com.au)