



THE RIVERS EQUINE VETS



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Our Facebook Page [click here](#)



*Seasons Greetings
Everyone!*



**Expert Health Care for your
Horse & Donkey!**

Wishing All Our Friends & Clients a Very Merry Christmas.

December is a fun month, with Christmas the day that we all look forward to. It's the end of the year, and the promise of a new and better year lies ahead. As for our Equine friends, it's just another day, where each day blends seamlessly into a month and then stretches into years. Animals live in the moment and make the most of each and every day. Perhaps we can learn from them?

But for now...

**Thanks to all our clients, we treasure your valuable support.
We look forward to working with you in 2022.**

Some Easy Rules to Make Feeding Your Horse Simple.

Food is such an important part of many family holiday traditions, there is so much variety available and it can be very overwhelming to decide what to cook on these special occasions.

The same applies to when we are choosing the feeds for our horses. There are so many different feeds available, not to mention the proliferation of supplements. It can become quite confusing so we have outlined a few tips below to help you decide what to feed your horse.

- Access to roughage is vital as it helps keep the stomach healthy.
- Avoid high starch or sugar feeds as excess of these products can increase the risk for acidosis, colic, diarrhea, stomach ulcers etc. They can also add unwanted weight gain.
- Source a good quality protein (such as Lucerne, soy meal and whey products) as it is needed to build muscle and bone strength as well as stamina.
- Feeding oils such as linseed and canola which are high in omega 3 help the coat and skin to remain healthy, while they help to maintain body condition. Many grazing grasses and browsing foliage provide these oils.
- Foods rich in omega 6 such as sunflower, soy and rice bran can, in some cases, aggravate inflammation.
- Many horses benefit from the addition of biotin with zinc and methionine that work together to promote hoof wall growth and integrity.

We can help if you have any questions or concerns about your horse's diet, please call us on **02 6672 3898**.

Equine Health Care Packages. Early detection is vital in the well being of your horse. Health Care Packages are a preventative care approach that helps a small health problem from escalating. Nipping a problem when it is in the early stages can help avoid costly health care later down the track.

We will soon be offering multiple tier packages to a select number of our clients. Our tier 1 package covers most issues including but not limited to an annual health check, dental examination, tetanus and strangles booster and so much more. Tier 2 includes all of the options in Tier 1 but includes a routine blood profile. By opting for the Health Care Packages, you will save on routine veterinary costs and will receive a bonus loyalty voucher for your next visit.

Watch this space for the upcoming release of THE RIVERS EQUINE VETS Equine Health Care Packages!

Tip. Introduce feed changes slowly. Adding supplements or changing feed too quickly can spark colic. A good rule of thumb is to introduce any new feed or changes gradually over two weeks. Follow a regular feeding routine as horses thrive on routine—it helps prevent any colic or any stress build-up.



Happy Christmas to Everyone!



For all Emergencies over the festive break please call our 24 hour emergency line on (02) 6672 3898

Thanks for all your support throughout the year.
Keep Safe and Happy!

Provide consistent dental care by scheduling appointments annually to have your horses teeth checked. Healthy teeth equals a happy horse.



The Rivers Equine Vets

Dr. Greg Baldwin - Dr. Matt Mackee
We are here to help you and your equine family - Phone 02 6672 3898

Queensland Itch This condition is also known as Recurrent Seasonal Pruritus. It is caused by hypersensitivity to the bites of midges (of the species Culicoides). The itch is generally caused by the saliva of the midge species inducing an allergic reaction in and around on a susceptible horses skin. In bad cases, the itching can affect the whole back area, as well as the ears and face. Other areas that can be affected include the belly and chest. It can also affect the tail area and the base of the mane areas. When bitten by midges, small lumps develop in the skin. These bumps are extremely itchy and the horse will start rubbing itself anywhere it can which causes loss of hair, thickened skin and irritation. Serum oozes from the skin and forms scabs. Queensland Itch is mainly a summer problem although in some areas, midges are a year round problem. Areas where there is stagnant water attract midges and can become a breeding ground for the pest. If you are unsure whether your horse has Queensland itch, give us a call as other diseases can look similar such as tail itch, rain scald or ringworm.

How to Manage Queensland Itch.

Treatment is aimed at three main areas— 1) to prevent the midges biting your horse, 2) modify your horses reaction, and 3) reduce the itchiness from the sores.

An easy option is to move your horse to a windy hill with short grass. Midges are tiny, so a breeze will affect where they can go. If the grass is long, slash the paddocks to prevent the pest moving in. Another option is to use a rug to protect your horse— some are made especially for this condition but start rugging prior to the condition developing. Putting a rug on an infected horse may make the itch worse.

Stable your horse from one hour prior to dusk to one hour after dawn. Applying repellents can help. Have a fan to move the air around inside the stable.

Ask us about adding Omega 3 oils to the feed which will modify the chemicals in the blood that promote the itching. Dietary Vitamin B1 Thiamine has been a proven aid, as has Brewers yeast. Prescription only corticosteroids can suppress the allergic reaction but must be administered only under Veterinary direction. Bacterial antibiotic creams can help to heal the affected sores. There are many tools which we can use to help your horse recover from this insanely itchy condition. Vigilance and persistence with the treatment is required. It won't be healed overnight, but over time it can be healed. Don't let your horse suffer. The Qld Itch can affect your horses quality of life. It can make them irritable and impatient.

So call us today—we can provide the relief your horse needs.

Please Visit Our Website—Click on the link below.

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