



THE RIVERS EQUINE VETS



2/3 Durrington St

South Murwillumbah NSW, 2484

E: admin@theriversequinevets.com.au

Our Website

www.theriversequinevets.com.au



Call us when you need us on

Ph 02 6672 3898

Our Facebook Page [click here](#)



Our Website has lots of
valuable information!
[Click here to view.](#)

The January 2021 Newsletter!

Horses love company, hence their tendency to form herds. Playing and running together is vital for socialisation, and just as important is chilling out time and grooming each other. Without companionship horses can become stressed, often wandering around and calling for a companion. A donkey, some sheep, or even a cow or three can even make good substitutes for company for your horse. Perhaps your neighbour may have a horse and will agree to have your and their horse's share the paddocks? The benefits are many. You get twice the grazing land and the horses get the companionship that they crave. The horses are happy and so are you. Although, it is important to ensure there is open communication with your neighbour about ethics and standards of care before entering a share paddock arrangement. Sometimes you have to think outside your own paddock to make your horse a contented equine.

'NEW' Equine Health Care Packages

Rivers Equine Vets are committed to wellbeing of your horse or donkey. Catching a problem in the early stages can prevent minor problems from exploding into major issues. And the solution? We will soon be offering our **Equine Health Care Package!** Here is a snap shot of it all.

Tier 1 includes the following.

- Annual Health Check & Examination
- Dental examination and power float (includes sedation)
- Hendra and Tetanus & Strangles Vaccinations
- Faecal Egg Count & strategic worming plan (wormers not included)
- Sheath/Penis, or Udder clean.
- Equine Health Record Book

Tier 2 includes all the Tier 1 inclusions **plus** Routine Blood Profile.

Save over \$180.00 and receive a \$20 loyalty voucher for your next visit.

Affordably priced preventative care which can save you money and heartache.

The Equine Health Care Packages will be available on a limited basis.

TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST in this amazing package — Please call our office on 02 6672 3898 between 8.30 am and 4.30 pm Monday to Friday.

Have you ever wondered if a horse feels pain when they are shod?

Here is the answer to this vexing question.

There are no nerve endings in the outer section of the hoof, so no, they do not feel pain when horse shoes are nailed on. But the hoof will continue to grow even with the shoes on, so a [farrier will be required](#) to trim, adjust and reset your horse's shoes on a regular basis.

Equine Problems? We Can Help.

Does your horse have a problem with parasites, their teeth, or is there something else that is bothering you about their health?

Give us a call for any equine problem and we can help. Whatever the issue, we provide a [wide range of services.](#)

We come to you!



Horses let humans ride them because of the relationship of trust that is developed through hard work, time spent with them, and training.

In a horse or donkey's perfect world paddocks would be about one acre in size and the land should have adequate drainage. The land should have good grass cover and it should offer natural shelter in the way of trees or an open air shelter. The fences should be well maintained and there should be no barbed wire. In addition to the above, paddocks should be free from rubbish, with the manure being removed regularly. A natural water source such as a dam or creek is preferable but if not available, plenty of fresh water should be provided.



The Rivers Equine Vets

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

Identifying a Hoof Abscess

A hoof abscess is a pocket of infection that develops under the sole or within the sensitive tissues (laminae) of a horse's foot. As the pus builds up, the growing pressure can cause a great deal of pain for the horse. Lameness due to a hoof abscess can occur either suddenly, or it may develop over time. Usually, your horse will favor the sore hoof and may hold the leg up, and will often be unable to place any weight on the limb. If there is heat in the hoof, this can assist in pin pointing the location of the abscess as the infected area may be warm. Search for damage to the hoof such as cracks or a nail that has punctured the hoof. Do not pull the nail or the sharp object out! Leave it so that we can see the exact point of entry. If your horse draws away, or seems reluctant for you to touch the hoof, just leave it and remain safe. Call us immediately so we can examine the hoof and can diagnose what can be done to provide your horse with relief from the pain.

Treatment of a Hoof Abscess

Bacteria can gain entry through cracks or sharp objects that puncture the hoof. As equine vets, we will perform a detailed lameness examination on your horse and test the digital pulse which is an early indication of trauma within the hoof. We look at how your horse walks and stands, check the lower legs to identify swelling, and check for other causes of lameness. We will also test the sensitivity of the hoof by applying pressure to the different areas. The part that is the most sensitive is usually where the abscess is. Cleaning of the affected hoof is also important which will help identify the area of entry of the bacteria. We may take x-rays to rule out a fracture, and to look for pockets of gas in the hoof, which indicates the presence of bacteria. If the abscess cannot be seen, a poultice can be applied to draw it out and allow for cleaning. It depends on the type and location of the abscess, but we will be able to prescribe treatment and/or a pad or boot for a few weeks to allow the sole to heal. Treating an abscess takes time, and a course of equine antibiotics may also be required to clear up this painful problem as quickly as possible.

Horses & Ticks. Tick management is an inevitable part of life on a property. Ticks thrive in warm climates and breed in grass / bush areas. They attach themselves to your horses' body, usually in the soft tissue areas such as in the belly, face or groin areas. If you find a tick on your horse, you can spray the tick with a pyrethrin based insect repellent, leave for an hour, then do it again. The tick should fall off or you can carefully remove it with tweezers. Do not try to pry off the live tick, as the head can be left behind buried in the skin.

A full size horse may only experience minor symptoms when infested with ticks. However, a tick infestation can result in severe symptoms or even death for a miniature horse or foal. Symptoms of tick paralysis may include a wobbly stance when standing or walking, labored breathing, falling or lying down for long periods. Check your horse for these parasites daily. Keep the body of the parasite in a jar to help us to identify the type of tick that has infected your horse. If your horse is experiencing any of the above symptoms, call us for help as early treatment is vital.

Please Visit Our Website— Click on the link below.

www.theriversequinevets.com.au