



VET notes

EQUINE & LIFESTYLE

JUNE 2011



Meet your vet... Joao Dib

Joao Dib first came to Totally Vets as a student back in 2003. He showed so much enthusiasm in these early days that we decided to give him a job.

He has many aliases, as his name is tricky to pronounce. He is often referred to as Jo, Joel or Jao so we have decided to call him Dr Dib to avoid any confusion. His origins are also slightly confusing. He is not Maori, South African, from the Islands or Italian. He is in fact Brazilian and hails from Sao Paulo.

Dr Dib lives in Ashhurst with his wife Anne and two sons Miguel and Thomas. His daughter Sara lives and works in Wellington. The boys are very talented cyclists but Joao is finding it harder to keep up with them having just hit his half century! He has recently turned his attentions to woodwork, growing veggies and chasing deer in the hills.

While he is a great large animal vet he has a particular passion for equine dentistry.

Progressive Ethmoid Haematoma (PEH)

Lucy Cahill

"Cynders" is a 13 year old TB gelding who was presented to us by his owner Jodi for bloody discharge from one nostril which recurred twice within a week. Examination revealed a blood-tinged discharge from the right nostril and decreased resonance of the right side of the head during percussion. We were suspicious that Cynders may be suffering from an ethmoid haematoma and endoscopy confirmed our diagnosis.

An ethmoid haematoma is a blood filled, soft tissue mass found in the nasal cavity or sinuses, originating from the ethmoid

turbinates which are found towards the back of the nasal cavity. The cause of PEH remains a mystery. These masses are not cancerous, but can be locally invasive and if left untreated, will progressively expand. Often more than one lesion is present.

The most common sign of PEH is epistaxis, or a bloody discharge from the nostril. This is caused by intermittent bleeding due to splitting of the surface of the lesion. Progressive expansion can eventually impair the horse's ability to breathe through the affected side and cause facial deformity.

Diagnosis is confirmed via nasal endoscopy which allows direct visualization of the internal structures of the respiratory tract. Sometimes direct sinus endoscopy (via trephine holes through the skull) or radiography of the head can also be of assistance.

Treatment involves injection of the mass with formalin through an endoscope. Often multiple treatments are necessary and recurrence or development of new lesions is not uncommon. Surgical removal has largely been replaced by formalin injection.

Cynders has had his ethmoid haematoma injected once and is doing well. He reportedly has the spring back in his step and is coming back to see us in a month for repeat endoscopy and treatment as necessary.

Below Normal ethmoid turbinates as seen through an endoscope.



Below Cynders' ethmoid haematoma, circled in red.





From the horse's mouth

Pictured left is Ngalaire Mai Light (aka Madam), a 3 year old partbred Welsh filly by Nala Master Nicholai out of Llandovery Limelight, with handler Brandon East and the three judges of her section at HOY. She is owned by her breeders at Ngalaire Pony Stud; Ngaire Crockett, Lynaire Cottle and Brandon East, and has won many Champions and Supremes in her career to date. Madam suffered an unfortunate

laceration to her left hind leg earlier this year. This put a spanner in the works in the middle of a successful season, however we were hopeful that we had enough time to get her leg showing ready for Horse Of The Year. After much dedication and hard work on Lynaire's part, Madam's leg was looking almost 100% just in time for HOY where she won Welsh Partbred Pony of the Year. Her half brother, Ngalaire

Management of pregnant mares

Pregnant mare management should now be underway but here are some reminders on what to think about in the lead-up to foaling.

Rapid growth of the foetus takes place in the last three months of pregnancy and the mare's nutritional intake should be adjusted accordingly. Energy and protein requirements increase as well as the requirements for vitamins, minerals and trace elements. For this reason pregnant mares will benefit from supplementation with a product designed for their requirements such as mare balancer nuts. Selenium plays a role in fertility and should also be supplemented in known deficient mares.

Body condition of the pregnant mare is also important and should be assessed. Mares

should be in good condition at foaling so they can meet the high demands of early lactation. This is especially important if the mare is to be rebred following foaling. Good parasite control and good dental care as well as supplying the correct nutrients will help to ensure this.

Booster vaccinations for Tetanus, Strangles and preferably Salmonella should be administered 4-6 weeks before foaling. Equine Herpes Virus 1 can cause abortion storms in unvaccinated mares. For this reason we recommend that pregnant mares be also vaccinated against EHV1. Maiden mares or those not previously vaccinated should be vaccinated in the 3rd, 4th and 6th or 4th, 5th and 7th months of pregnancy. If the mare has had a primary course such as this, then only a yearly booster is required. The best time for this booster can vary so please discuss timing with Totally Vets. Getting the mare's vaccinations up to date should ensure that the new born foal receives colostrum which is high in antibodies against these diseases.

At vaccination time the mare can be examined to see if a caslick has been

performed and if so this can be opened. Deworming the mare with a broad spectrum drench in the last month of pregnancy will also reduce the exposure of the newborn to parasites (see your vet for the best option - not all drenches are equal!).

The importance of the pregnant mare's feet cannot be underestimated. A mare in foal with neglected feet is susceptible to a wide range of foot conditions including laminitis and foot abscesses. Please keep in regular contact with your farrier for continued regular hoof trimming and care.

It is advisable to introduce the mare to the foaling environment some time before foaling to minimise stress close to the time and to allow her to acclimatise. This will also expose the mare to any pathogens present in this new environment and give her time to build up antibodies. These antibodies will be passed on to the newborn via the colostrum and provide the foal with some degree of protection.

If you have any queries regarding the management of your mare in the run-up to foaling please contact us at Totally Vets.





Flashlight also won Welsh Purebred Pony of the Year 2011. Congratulations to the team at Ngalaire Pony Stud, and to all of our clients who competed at HOY this year!

Up and coming events

The Bomac Lecture Series will be held at the Awapuni Racecourse Wednesday 27th July at 1pm. This years topic is "All About Foals" presented by internationally renowned speaker Jane Axon. We encourage you to attend as these lectures are always excellent. Cost is \$50

per person including afternoon tea and a copy of the proceedings. Contact the NZ Equine Research Foundation at NZERF@xtra.co.nz for registration forms.

Kentucky Equine Research, in conjunction with NRM and Caledonian Holdings will also be in Palmerston North towards the end of July with a sport horse nutrition seminar presented by Dr Jo Pagan and Dr Clarrissa Douglas-Brown. This talk will also be well worth attending. Details are to be confirmed, please contact Totally Vets for more information.

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A horse called Wanda

Margaret Leyland

A long time ago, the year before I started vet school, I bought a horse called Wanda as a project and potential investment. Many of you will know that trying to make money from dealing horses is easier said than done, and I made a spectacular loss.

Wanda had one or two problems. She used to rear and would frequently fall over backwards with no sense of self-preservation, and even less of rider-preservation. A highlight was the Valentine's Day when she threw her head up and whacked me in the face, and my bottom teeth went right through my lip.

I kept her on a busy agistment yard and everyone was keen to offer words of wisdom. Riding with an egg in my pocket to crack over her head if she reared was a particularly impractical suggestion, self-preservation tends to take over when the horse you are riding is in

danger of flipping over backwards - not a good time to start making an omelette!

In desperation, I even succumbed to allowing a horse whisperer who approached me at a show to come to the yard and find out what Wanda was thinking. For 25 pound this lady asked Wanda what was troubling her. The idea of a one-off consultation that could tell me how to solve my problem was certainly appealing. I can't remember exactly what Wanda told the horse whisperer, suffice to say, that we were no nearer to getting to the bottom of the problem.

Thinking about Wanda has reminded me how difficult it can be as a horse owner to sort the wheat from the chaff when it comes to choosing between people willing to offer advice. The philosophy of the veterinary profession, when tackling any kind of problem is to try and use a logical approach. Any treatment or diagnostic process should be based on testable explanations and predictions.

My first boss was once called out to see a horse that had become cast in the stable, and had got its cover tangled around its legs. The owners insisted that he mustn't cut the cover because the horse had told the horse whisperer that it was very happy with its new cover and particularly liked the purple colour. Maybe some

people are able to talk to horses, but if they are, then they should be able to demonstrate this in a well-designed experiment.

Scientific principles should also be used when interpreting the results of tests. Recently, a client emailed some thermal images of a horse to me, for my interpretation. Thermal cameras can potentially be useful to identify areas of inflammation, but they are an indirect measure reflecting skin temperature, which can also be affected by plenty of external factors. In order to get meaningful images, the horse should stand in a dark room for at least half an hour before imaging to eliminate differences in skin temperature due to external factors, like sunlight and shadows. It is also very difficult to compare left and right sides if the horse isn't standing symmetrically and the images taken from an angle which means that you can compare like with like. In short, all the fancy equipment in the world is useless without proper application and interpretation.

The veterinary science degree provides vets with the ability to build knowledge from testable explanations and predictions and trains us to use evidence-based medicine, meaning that all clinical decisions should be based on the best available scientific evidence.

Small block banter

Raising an orphan

Leisa Norris-Spring

For one reason or another sometimes lambs are left without a mother... and soon it will be the time of year that children (and many an adult!) want to step in and raise an orphan lamb.

WHAT TO DO FIRST

Check if the lamb is warm enough. If it seems depressed, feels cold and is reluctant to move then it may be suffering from hypothermia. Drying them off, and providing a warm, sheltered environment is a good start. HOWEVER... care needs to be taken, because for the first 12 or so hours of life a lamb has sufficient energy reserves (brown fat) to maintain glucose levels in the body. Lambs greater than 12 hours old, whose energy stores have been depleted, are only still alive due to their sub-normal body temperature allowing the body to shut down to a point where only the bare minimum of energy is required...

if these lambs are warmed up too quickly they will die. Consequently, these lambs require the energy PRIOR to warming. An injection of glucose into the abdomen is best, so call Totally Vets.

Check if the lamb can nurse. It may be too small, cold, or weak... put your finger in the lamb's mouth and see if it can suck. If not it will require tube feeding every 2-3 hours, so again call Totally Vets.

The navel should be sprayed using iodine solution as soon as possible after birth.

FEEDING

For the first 8-12 hours a lamb needs colostrum which provides vital maternal antibodies to help protect against disease and is full of energy. At a minimum they require 3-4 feeds of 100 to 200ml each, if possible continue feeding colostrum for 3-4 days. The mother's own colostrum is best, suitable alternatives include frozen colostrum from a ewe, colostrum from a goat or cow, or artificial colostrum. Heat gently and avoid the microwave as it will destroy the antibodies. In the absence colostrum, a homemade recipe of; 1 litre milk, 1 beaten egg, 5ml cod liver oil, 10g glucose powder is better than nothing!



After 24-96 hours, feed a lamb-milk replacer at a temperature slightly above normal body heat (approximately 40°C).

As the lamb gets older gradually increase the volume but decrease the number of feedings per day. Remember that over-feeding is likely to induce scours.

Baby bottles and teats work well, as do soft drink bottles with lamb teats. A lamb will learn very quickly where its food is coming from and will adapt to bottle feeding without a problem.

Encourage lambs to eat grass, sheep nuts, hay etc as young as possible. As long as the lamb is growing well and eating an adequate amount of feed (greater than 75% of the diet) then weaning at around 6 weeks old is fine.

Good luck and enjoy!

Equine clipping service

Totally Vets offers you a convenient, safe, efficient clipping service

CONVENIENCE

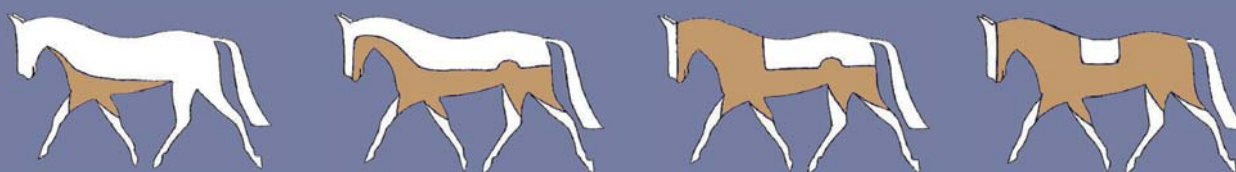
You can drop your horse into the clinic for the day, and collect that evening clipped and ready to go; stay and watch; or we can travel to you by prior arrangement.

SAFETY

Sedation administered and monitored by a veterinarian ensures your horse stands quietly during clipping. Thus minimising the risk of nervousness and injury.

EFFICIENCY

Totally Vets clipping will save you \$50-100 compared with employing a separate person to clip and a veterinarian to sedate and monitor your horse for 15 minutes during routine clipping.



Call us today to book your horse for clipping on 06 356 5011