



Bay of Islands Veterinary Services Gallopers Gossip

www.bayvets.co.nz

Spring 2017

Veterinarians:

Max Newport BVSc, BSc

Toni Monro BVSc

Shirley Dryden BVSc

Maren Newport Vet Med, DVM

Hilary Shaw BVSc, BAgSc

Garth Riddle BVSc

Joanna Van Pierce BVSc

Nikita Osborne BVSc

Ashley Wright BVSc

Mark Johnson BVSc

Rob Knott BVMS

Jorrit Verner DVM

It's turned out to be quite a wet winter this year. This brings with it plenty of challenges like mud, rain scald, lack of feed and of course not enough nice riding days.

Hang in there, the days are getting longer and before you know it the horses will be starting to feel the effects of spring grass!!

It sounds like everyone enjoyed the horse evening we had in July. Our plan is to run these a lot more frequently. Let us know what you'd like to hear about.

Gastroscooping

Our first ever gastro-scoping day was run in mid-July. It was a great success with lesions found in all 8 horses that we scoped. If you are concerned your horse may be suffering from ulcers have a chat with Niki or Hilary and we can talk to you about what is involved. Scoping days will be happening roughly every 3 months, year round, from now on. Scoping costs \$200 per horse. The next dates are 26th and 27th of September, book in early so you don't miss out. Call our Waipapa clinic 09 401 6654.



Foaling

A number of you will have mares due to foal this spring. Prior to foaling it is important to make sure the mare has had a recent tetanus booster vax to give maximum protection to both her and the newborn foal. She should also be drenched no longer than 2 weeks before foaling; don't worry if you get caught out, drench her the day she foals.

We can put together a **foaling kit** with everything you may need

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around the event – see us at Waipapa or Kawakawa clinics. We can also provide you with some helpful notes.

We can now source **foaling predictor kits**. These work by measuring the amount of calcium in the mares pre-colostrum. Kits will cost around \$260 each, and provide up to 20 tests per kit. They do require you to be able to safely obtain milk from your mare. Kits can be ordered from our Waipapa clinic.

We can run a blood test on your new born foal at around 24 hours old to ensure it has had sufficient colostrum. Without colostrum the foal is highly susceptible to a number of life threatening conditions.

Breeding

It's already looking like we're going to have a busy season of breeding mares, with a number already booked in. We are now able to offer frozen semen insemination for mares at a fee of \$1200 **per cycle** covering all the routine costs. All frozen semen mares will need to be agisted at Seaforth Farm over the time they are to be inseminated. Agistment costs are charged separately by Seaforth Farm. We now also have a fixed price of \$500 **per cycle** for fresh, chilled AI, covering all routine costs. This can be done at Seaforth Farm or your own facility, but remember travel is extra.



Skinny horses

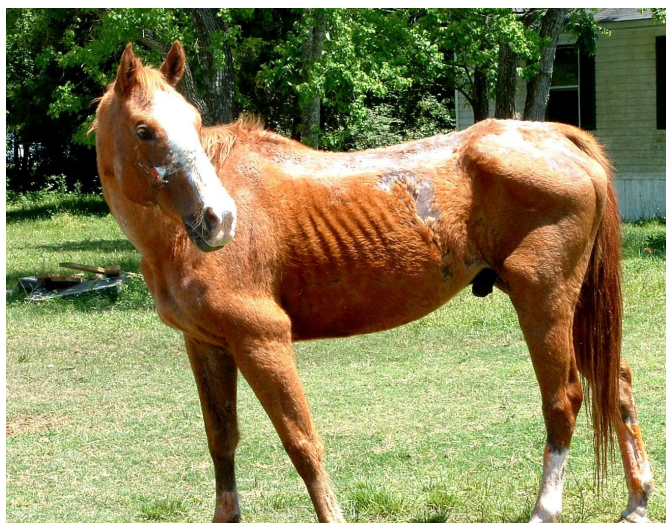
There are a few horses around at this time of year that start to show the effects of winter and lose a bit too much weight. The big three factors to consider are **FOOD, TEETH** and **PARASITES!** Talk to us if you have concerns about your horse.

Parasites

These little beggars never give us a break in Northland! Horses can get very sick from parasites! Some may need to be drenched as often as every 6 to 8 weeks depending on their age and how they are being managed. Properties with only horses and no other stock, and the presence of foals and young horses <4 years, are at highest risk of problems. We can test your horses and make a plan specific to your situation.

Rainscald

Rainscald is a common problem in Northland. Periods of moderate to heavy rain that go on for hours causes the coat to become saturated and the skin underneath starts to absorb water. This makes it highly susceptible to invasion by the organism *Dermatophyllis congolensis*; other skin organisms can then also invade. The problem is often worse in horses struggling in other areas such as lack of feed and parasites. The only prevention is either a stable (nice to have) or a good WATERPROOF cover to prevent skin saturation. Bad cases may require antibiotic treatment. Mild cases can be treated topically. Prevention is far better than cure.



Spring grass

It's coming! Any chronic laminitis ponies need to be off the grass **NOW!** They will need to stay off the grass at least until it starts to get seed heads on it, near the end of November.

New Vet

Jorrit Verver has joined the team at Bay of Islands Vets. Jorrit (Jo) is an experienced vet from the Netherlands. He has extensive experience dealing with sport horses in Europe including artificial breeding techniques in horses.

