

eQuiNEWS

28 June 2010

Galloping towards better hoof health

Owners and riders of horses and ponies will benefit from a new report released early June on laminitis – the second largest killer of horses and ponies in Australia.

The RIRDC report *Equine Laminitis – Managing pasture to reduce the risk* provides owners with practical information on managing their pastures to reduce the risk of laminitis in horses and ponies.

Laminitis is the second biggest killer of horses after colic and is the most serious disease of the equine foot. It causes the coffin bone of the foot to become detached from the inside of the hoof wall, and sometimes penetrate the sole of the foot. Laminitis causes dreadful suffering and in severe cases euthanasia is necessary.

The report outlines how horse owners can reduce the level and concentration of sugar, starch and fructan in their pastures. High levels of these carbohydrates can cause laminitis in horses and ponies. Most pastures in Australia are tailored for dairy cows, beef cattle and sheep, and are high in sugar, starch and fructan. When these types of pastures are exposed to intense sunshine, drought and cold stress, these carbohydrates can increase three-fold. But with good pasture management, these conditions can be minimised.

Director of the Equine Laminitis Research Unit at the University of Queensland and co-author of the report, Professor Chris Pollitt, says this report represents an important step forward in the understanding of pasture associated laminitis. "While there are still significant gaps in our knowledge about laminitis, a source of great frustration to horse owners and veterinarians alike, we do know that what the horse or pony has eaten over the last few days, weeks or months may trigger laminitis," Professor Pollitt said.

"Pasture management techniques such as timely slashing, proper fertilising and avoiding species that are high in sugar, starch and fructan can go a long way to reducing the risk of horses developing laminitis."

This painful and crippling condition, often called "founder" can affect all breeds of horses, but ponies and horse breeds such as Arabs, Fjords, Morgans and Andalusians are more prone to the condition.

The report was launched at the Australian Equine Science Symposium by RIRDC senior research manager Dave Alden, and is the latest in a series of RIRDC reports focussing on improving horse health. The principal author is US based agronomist, Kathryn Watts.

Equine Laminitis – Managing pasture to reduce the risk is available at www.rirc.gov.au



BOONAH:

QHC Hendra virus Seminars

(Cost: Donation to HeV Vacc Fund)

Boonah Showgrounds (Dining Hall)

Wed 30th June 6:30pm

Contact: Melanie, Boonah Vet Hospital 5463 1339

GUANABA:

Plumbolah Equestrian Centre, 50 Whittings Rd, Guanaba

Fri 2 July 6:30 pm (Please bring your own chair)

Contact: Debbie 5464 6785

LAIDLEY:

Laidley Cultural Centre, Laidley

Wed 14 July 7:30 pm

Contact: Debbie 5464 6785

QHC Hendra Virus Horse Vaccine Development Trust Fund

HOW TO DONATE

Donate by EFT: BSB No.: 034189; A/C No.: 300490

A/C Name: Qld Horse Council Hendra Vaccine Fund

Or donate by mail:

Make cheque (crossed not negotiable) or money order payable to "Qld Horse Council Hendra Vaccine Fund" and send to:

QLD Horse Council Inc. Hendra Vaccine Development Fund
438 Middle Road, Purga QLD 4306



What's on?

28-Jun PCAQ

State Dressage, Combined Training & Horse Trials.
(Ingham)

29-Jun BOWEN SHOW

29-Jun ZONE 6 PONY CLUBS

Coaching School. Ph: 0418 776 713 (AH)

30-Jun AYR SHOW

1-Jul GATTON QUARTER HORSE & PERFORMANCE ASSOC.

2010 Qld State QH Championships.

2-Jul REDCLIFFE SHOW

2-Jul TOWNSVILLE SHOW

3-Jul QUEENSLAND POLO ASSOCIATION

DOWNS Club, Clifton. Ph 0458 QPA QLD

3-Jul QUEENSLAND POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION

CAPRICORNIA: St L/Nebo (Inter Zone) Ph: 0409 006 762

LEICHHARDT: St George Ph: 0427 282 120

3-Jul AUST CARRIAGE DRIVING SOCIETY - QLD BRANCH

COOLOOLA: Gunalda Carnival Ph: 5484 3210

3-Jul 2010 MITAVITE QLD FESTIVAL OF DRESSAGE

Pine Lodge Equestrian Centre, Thornlands

4-Jul NERANG & DISTRICT EQUESTRIAN CLUB (NADEC)

Protocol Day Tom Rose Park

4-Jul AUST CARRIAGE DRIVING SOCIETY - QLD BRANCH

GOLD COAST: Park Drive & Novelties Ph: 3287 3391

4-Jul 2010 NORTHERN QLD SHOW HORSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mackay Showgrounds

9-Jul HERBERT RIVER (INGHAM) SHOW

9-Jul MALANDA SHOW

10-Jul LAIDLEY SHOW

10-Jul DAYBORO SHOW

10-Jul QUEENSLAND POLO ASSOCIATION

BIDDPC Club. Bid Ck Family Tournament.

Ph 0458 QPA QLD

10-Jul QUEENSLAND POLOCROSSE ASSOCIATION

NAR NORTH: Bowen Ph: 0408 062 246

OUTBACK: Eulo Ph: 0429 977 718

SOUTH EAST: Gold Coast Ph: 0427 674 718

10-Jul TOWNSVILLE DRESSAGE CLUB

Winter Dressage Series. Ph: 4774 0574

11-Jul NERANG & DISTRICT EQUESTRIAN CLUB (NADEC)

Show jumping Tom Rose Park (one ring only)

11-Jul CEDAR GROVE & DISTRICT RIDING CLUB

Motorline BMW Open Hack Show www.cgdr.org.au



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Medium Club (200-2,000 members)	\$150
Large Club (over 2,000 members)	\$300

Email secretary@qldhorsecouncil.com for further info