



## PORTARLINGTON & DIST PONY CLUB NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

Hello Everyone and welcome to the September rally ☺

First and foremost a **BIG THANKYOU** to Tiff for running the August Rally. Talk about being thrown in the deep end. She ran a great day, despite some challenges, and we appreciate her stepping up to the plate.

Secondly, **HAPPY FATHERS DAY** to all our Dads. We really have the best Dads at our club and we should take the time to celebrate their greatness. Today, in their honour, we will be hosting an afternoon tea, so **please can everyone bring a plate of goodies to share – sweet or savoury.**

By now you should also be aware of the PCAV requirement for all members over the age of 18, parents, supporters and instructors that attend pony club for more than three rallies in the year are to have a current Working With Childrens Check. If you have not organised this yet, now is the time to do so. We can only accommodate you for three months without the WWCC and that ends this month if you have been for both July and August. Any questions, please see a Cathy.

This months rally will be a closed Combined Training Day with prizes for overall winners and a special prize for best presented. See **RALLY PLAN** for the times for our CT Day on Sunday. **9:30am start** for set-up – and that means **EVERYONE**. Please all be ready to start theory at 10am.

Have a fun rally ☺

### **RALLY ATTENDANCE**

For the purpose of working out rally plans we would appreciate it if all members can email the DC if you are **NOT** attending a rally. The DC is responsible for organizing instructors and working out the groups.

### **GRADING**

If you would like to be re-graded at this month's rally, please complete the grading form at the desk prior to the start of the rally.

### **INSTRUCTORS**

Today we have Lisa Brown, Billy Hinz, Megan Kennedy and Tiffany instructing our lessons. Please make them feel welcome.

### **COMPETITIONS**

All Pony Club events are available from the Barwon Zone website  
<http://www.barwonzone.ponyclubvic.org.au/site/ponyclub/barwonzone/downloads/events/NEW%20BARWON%20ZONE%20EVENTS%20CALENDAR%20Updated%20Dec%202012.pdf>.

### **UNIFORMS**

Uniforms are available and can be purchased on rally days. If you would like to purchase uniforms, please talk to the treasurer (Megan) and she will help you. **NEW POLAFLEECE JACKETS NOW IN STOCK.**

## NEWSLETTER

If you have any information or material eg. competition results, for sale items, advertising, photos etc please email to [wshall@bigpond.com.au](mailto:wshall@bigpond.com.au) and Cheslea will be happy to print in next newsletter. Thanks ☺

## CANTEEN

Please fill out the canteen lunch order form when you sign in on arrival ☺

Canteen roster below. If you are unavailable please make arrangements to swap with someone else.

**Please be advised that when you are rostered on canteen duty it includes preparation, sales and clean up.**

When the amazing hamburger chef Frank is unavailable, we may need extra help!!

Thanks for your assistance.

Rally	Family on duty	Family on duty	Family on duty
September	Laney	Bourke	
October	Macguire	Woodhouse	

## **ALSO – CALLING ALL BAKERS – SWEET TREATS NEEDED**

## RALLY PLAN

This months rally will be a closed Combined Training Day with prizes for overall winners and a special prize for best presented.

Below are the times for our CT Day on Sunday. **9:30am start** for set-up – and that means **EVERYONE**. Please all be ready to start theory at 10am.

A few things to remember:

- Your dressage test (Test C for everyone except grade 5 which is test A)
- Uniform – including medical armband
- Prize for best presented horse (yes this means you have to plait)
- Parent and riders will have to help during the day, this will include, marshalling, setting up, packing up and collating scores. Not to mention the canteen.

Any questions, please let me know.

### **DRESSAGE**

### **SHOWJUMPING**

11:30	ZOE	5A	1:30	ZOE	POLES
11:35	CHARLIE	5A	1:32	CHARLIE	POLES
11:40	PHOEBE (1)	4c	1:34	<b>HEIGHT</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>
11:45	TAYLOR	4C	1:36	PHOEBE (1)	4
11:50	ANNABEL	4C	1:38	TAYLOR	4
11:55	EMMA	4C	1:40	ANNABEL	4
12:00	MADDY	4C	1:42	EMMA	4
12:05	CHLOE	4C	1:44	MADDY	4
12:10	EBONY	4C	1:46	CHLOE	4
12:15	MILLY	4C	1:48	EBONY	4
12:20	LATIESHA	4C	1:50	MILLY	4
12:25	LIAM	4C	1:52	LATIESHA	4
12:30	PHEOBE (2)	4C	1:54	<b>SPARE</b>	<b>SPARE</b>
12:35	<b>SPARE</b>	<b>SPARE</b>	1:56	LIAM	4
12:40	FELICITY	3C	1:58	PHOEBE (2)	4

12:45	ELIZA (1)	3C	2:00	SARAH	4
12:50	HOLLY	3C	2:05	<b>HEIGHT CHANGE</b>	
12:55	SARAH	3C	2:04	FELICITY	3
1:00	ELIZA (2)	2C	2:06	HOLLY	3
1:05	NATALYA	2C	2:08	ELIZA (1)	3
1:10	<b>SPARE</b>	<b>SPARE</b>	2:10	<b>HEIGHT CHANGE</b>	
			12:12	NATALYA	2

Showjumping: maximum heights and spreads at max

Grades	1	2	3
Max Height	1.10	0.95	0.80
Max Spread	1.10	0.95	0.80

### OUT & ABOUT

There has been no stories provided for this section this month. Obviously it's been too cold to take the ponies **OUT & ABOUT**.

### SPECIAL MENTION

As per above, there has not been anything **SPECIAL** to **MENTION** this month.

### FUNDRAISING

We will be holding a Lunch Pass Raffle each rally to put the fun in FUNdraising. Tickets are \$1 each, 3 tickets for \$2 or 10 tickets for \$5. The raffle will be drawn at the lunchtime meeting and can be used at the following rally. (To be used in one transaction so canteen staff don't have to worry about what you've spent and how much you have left to spend).

### **SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015 – PORTARLINGTON PONY CLUB CARBOOT SALE**

It's time to spring clean and turn your unwanted items into cash just in time for Christmas. Hold a stall at the Portarlington Pony Club Carboot Sale on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November. Site \$25 each.

If you have any ideas for fundraising, please share them with the committee. We are all ears.





**Dr Emma Stella - Hall** BSc BVMS (Hons)  
equine veterinary surgeon  
**0402 310 431**

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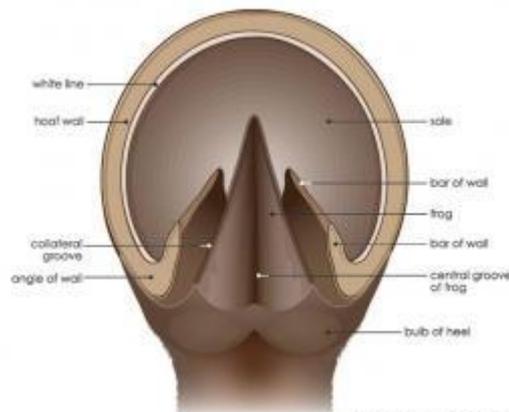
371 Cochrans Road  
Ceres Victoria 3221  
emma@gdequine.com.au

www.gdequine.com.au

## Dr Emma's Handy Horse Hints

### Foot Abscess

What is a foot abscess?



© Whorl Publishing Ltd. Diagram of foot anatomy - solar surface

Infection in the foot is by far, the most common cause of acute (sudden), single-leg lameness in the horse. Infection results in painful inflammation and pus (abscess) formation. The hoof is a relatively rigid structure and abscess formation increases pressure within the sensitive structures, which, like infection or bruise under a human fingernail, is very painful. This condition should be excluded first in all horses that become suddenly lame on one leg, before other diagnoses are considered.

### What causes a foot abscesses?

Infections are caused by one or more of the many types of bacteria which normally live in the environment or on the equine foot. Infection is introduced most commonly through the sole of the foot, by a bruise or puncture wound to the sole, by a nail 'bind' or 'prick' at shoeing, through a hoof crack or by tracking through the white line.

### How is a foot abscess diagnosed?

Characteristically, lameness develops suddenly, from slight to severe, over 24-48 hours, involving one leg only. When the pain is severe, the horse may sweat and blow and refuse to bear weight on the affected foot. The foot may feel warm and the pulse in the blood vessels to the foot (digital pulses) may 'bound'.

The shoe should be removed from the affected foot to allow thorough investigation and treatment. A discrete area of pain on the sole can usually be found with hoof testers or sometimes even finger pressure (the horse pulls the foot away in obvious pain).

When the shoe has been removed and the sole cleaned and searched, there may be signs of a puncture wound, crack or area of discoloration at the white line, corresponding to the area of pain. Pressure from hoof testers may cause pus to ooze from the wound. Further searching with a hoof knife usually results in an ooze or spurt of pus and/or gas from the abscess, initially painful but subsequently resulting in dramatic improvement.



© S J Curtis, Newmarket Infected hoof cut out to reveal underrun sole

Where the abscess cannot be located immediately, the foot should be poulticed overnight, to help the abscess to 'ripen' and the foot to soften, before trying again to find the abscess. If the abscess still cannot be found, a radiographic (x-ray) examination of the foot may be made to look for a pocket of pus/gas and to rule out other possibilities, e.g. fractures of the bones in the foot.

Occasionally, in deeper-seated abscesses, the infection may track upwards through the hoof laminae to eventually break out at the coronary band, rather than at the solar surface of the foot. In other cases, infection may track along under the sole ('underrun sole' – see image).

## How can a foot abscess be treated?

As soon as the site of pain is accurately established with hoof testers, the sole should be searched with a hoof knife to locate the abscess (signified by an ooze or spurt of pus and/or gas) and then pared away over the abscess to allow efficient drainage. The hole can be flushed with hydrogen peroxide and/or an antibiotic solution or foot spray and then the foot should be poulticed for 24-48 hours to encourage thorough drainage of pus through the hole.

Tetanus antitoxin must be given, if the horse is not fully vaccinated up to date or if vaccination status cannot be confirmed.

Once the horse is much more comfortable and there is no more drainage of pus, the empty hole is treated with an antibiotic foot spray and the foot is dry bandaged for a further 24-48 hours. The hole is then packed with cotton wool soaked in an antibiotic foot spray until it has healed.

In some more extensive cases, further flushing of the abscess cavity may be necessary over the next 2-3 days.

The horse should be kept in clean dry conditions until the hole is completely healed and then the foot may be re-shod.

## How can a foot abscess be prevented?



All horses that have not been fully vaccinated against tetanus should receive temporary protection with antitoxin

You should pick out and examine your horses' feet every day. Make sure that your horses' feet are regularly trimmed and shod, by a qualified farrier, to prevent hoof cracks.

Treat all puncture wounds, either nail pricks or other accidental injuries, by cleaning them and applying an antibiotic foot spray and poulticing, where necessary, without delay.

Always call your veterinarian to investigate lameness during its early stages, to try to prevent complications such as under-run sole and tracking to the coronary band.

### Caution

Make sure that your horses are always fully vaccinated against tetanus, an invariably fatal infection that can gain access through hoof injuries ([see our information on tetanus](#)).

The degree of lameness should improve rapidly within 12-24 hours after the abscess is opened and the pus is drained. If this is not the case there may be a more serious problem, requiring more extensive investigations.