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# TOWNSVILLE VETERINARY CLINIC NEWSLETTER

## Townsville Vet Clinic leading the way in Equine Sports Medicine

**IRAP II : A revolutionary treatment for joint arthritis in performance horses.**

Lameness in performance horses can be a significant problem for owners due to reduced performance and lost training time. Recent studies have proven even a subtle lameness such as a grade 2 out of 5 lameness (i.e. inconsistently lame at the straight trot) can significantly reduce performance during a race or competition. This could mean the difference between finishing first or out of the prize money altogether. Studies have shown horses that were either rested until the lameness resolved or underwent veterinary treatment for the cause of the lameness competed more predictably and in the case of race horses significantly increased their race earnings at subsequent starts. While horse owners are generally good judges of problems in their horses, these subclinical lameness can be challenging to detect and diagnose. Often the best time to evaluate a horse for subclinical lameness is a few hours after work or racing. This way any area of soreness or weakness will have been placed under pressure and may be more readily detected. Apart from soft tissue causes of lameness such as muscle strains and bruising, osteo-arthritis is the most insidious and common cause of lameness in performance horses. This comes about from repetitive wear and tear on the joint, leading to release of inflammatory products which cause damage to the cartilage resulting in osteo-arthritis. The use of anti-inflammatory drugs such as cortisone and others like phenylbutazone can provide pain relief from arthritis and have been shown to significantly improve performance and race times in horses with fetlock arthritis for example. As yet there is no cure for arthritis, so early detection, prevention and management are important. However, an exciting new treatment is changing the battlefield as we know it. One of the major inflammatory causes of arthritis is called Interleukin which if left unchecked can reach high levels in the joint causing cartilage destruction. Researchers in the United States have developed a system that can produce high concentrations of an Interleukin blocking agent called Interleukin receptor antagonist protein (IRAP). This revolutionary treatment uses the horse's own blood which is collected and processed in specially designed tubes to produce the IRAP II serum. Between 4 and 6 doses can be harvested from one collection which means the IRAP II serum can then be injected into selected joints with osteoarthritis or frozen and used at a later date when required. Studies have shown up to 80% of horses had improved performance and reduced lameness after IRAP treatment for osteo-arthritis. The North Queensland Specialist Equine Service and Townsville Veterinary Clinic have been using this revolutionary treatment for the past 3 years now with good success.

'The great thing about this treatment is it is using products derived from the horse's own blood stream, so it avoids using pharmaceuticals and is if you like a more pure treatment'

'Another benefit is the treatment complies with excretion times and the requirement for drug free racing or competition.'

'The North Queensland Specialist Equine Service is excited to be able to offer this cutting edge treatment modality to our clients' Brad Dowling, Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery



Trish, Belinda and Stacy just a few of the friendly smiling faces that will greet you at TVC.



Dr Brad Dowling Registered Specialist in Equine Surgery



- > FIV in Cats
- > Hendra Vaccinations
- > Pregnancy in Mares
- > Vet Shop
- > Wildlife
- > Dental Care for All our Animals



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**Puppy Pre School at TVC;  
Proudly Sponsored by  
Royal Canin**



**Earlier this year TVC was host to an Eastern blue-tongue lizard affectionately named "Bluey".**

## "Bluey" the Blue Tongue Lizard

Most people only consider their dogs and cats when thinking of a visit to the vet clinic; the truth of the matter is our native wildlife sometimes need attention too! Earlier this year TVC was host to an Eastern blue-tongue lizard affectionately named "Bluey". These lizards are fairly common throughout the Townsville area. Bluey was handed into the NQ wildlife group after having suffered what appeared to be dog attack wounds. His jaws were badly broken and also had damage to his left eye and skull. Bluey was assessed by one of our veterinarians and given an anaesthetic to repair his injuries. A large paper-clip, surgi-

cal glue and fixamil wound dressing were sufficient to wire Bluey's fractured jaw back into place. His eyes were treated with antibiotic ointment and his skull left to heal. After a couple of months of TLC and hand-feeding by Trish; one of our senior nurses; Bluey is well and truly on the mend!

We are hoping for a good recovery and for him to be released over the next 4-8wks. So what can you do if you come across injured wildlife? Please contact NQ wildlife carers on 0414 717 374; alternatively you can hand them in to your nearest vet clinic for treatment.



## DENTAL WEDNESDAYS- SMALL ANIMALS

Townsville Vet Clinic also have Dental Wednesdays. When you book and admit your small animal in for a dental at TVC we will give you a 15% discount of any dental products purchased at the time of your pets dental and 10% of further dental products purchased for 12 months. As with humans your pets teeth are an important part of their overall health.



**Don't forget to browse through our extensive range of collars and leads**

## FIV in Cats

### What is feline AIDS?

**Feline AIDS is caused by infection with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). FIV causes a potentially fatal viral disease that interferes with the immune system of a cat.**

The virus lives in the blood of the infected cat and is carried in its system throughout its life.

Healthy cats contract the infection through being bitten by an FIV positive cat.

Cats infected with FIV may remain healthy for a number of years. While some infected cats show no sign of disease, others may display initial symptoms such as:

- Fever
- Loss of appetite
- Diarrhoea
- Lethargy
- Swollen lymph nodes

As the disease progresses, symptoms may occur such as:

- Weight loss
- Sores in and around the mouth
- Eye lesions
- Poor coat
- Chronic infections

Eventually the immune system becomes too weak to fight off other infections or diseases. As a result, the cat will die from one of these subsequent infections.

TOWNSVILLE VETERINARY CLINIC  
AND  
NORTH QUEENSLAND SPECIALIST EQUINE SERVICE



## FIV-FELINE AIDS



### WHAT IS FELINE AIDS

Feline Aids is caused by infection with feline immunodeficiency virus (FIV). FIV causes a potentially fatal viral disease that interferes with the immune system of a cat.

Be sure to visit our website  
[townsvillevetclinic.com.au](http://townsvillevetclinic.com.au)  
for more information on your pets  
and the services provided by the  
Townsville Veterinary Clinic.



TOWNSVILLE  
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As part of our Promotions we are running a FIV promo- Please call our friendly receptionists at TVC to make an appointment and discuss further with our experienced veterinarians on your most appropriate vaccination and testing regime for your pet. Test and Vaccinations; normally \$197 our Promo price \$132

PROMOTION TO RUN TILL THE 30TH JUNE 2013



## PREGNANT MARE MONITORING – INSURE YOUR INVESTMENT

The breeding season is over, your mare is home, pregnant and looking well. All you have to do now is wait. Over the 11 months of an equine pregnancy many changes are going on, initially very rapidly. From 7-8 days after ovulation the embryo is a ball of cells just visible to the naked eye, by 14 days it is about 10 mm across and by 21 days the beginning of a heart beat is visible. By 45 days a placenta is forming and limbs and organs are beginning to differentiate. These changes and others can be monitored throughout pregnancy much the same as for people. Not all mares need intensive monitoring but those with a history of aborting mid or late term or delivering a small weak foal may benefit from a thorough reproductive examination and monitoring of their pregnancy. The most common cause of abortion, after twinning, is placentitis or infection of the placenta and foal. Placentitis occurs when bacteria gain access to the uterus, usually, after the pregnancy is established. Bacteria can access the uterus in three ways, at mating, via the vagina and cervix during pregnancy and via the blood stream or haematogenously. Bacteria ascending into the placenta and uterus via the vagina and cervix is the most common route and is often associated with poor vulval conformation and failure of the cervix to provide an adequate seal during pregnancy. If you look under an older mares tail the anus may be sunken in and her vulva sloped forward. This is a sign of poor vulval conformation and tends to be worse in mares that have had a number of foals or in poor body condition. As the mare moves around air is sucked into the vagina, along with small amounts

of manure and urine. All this contamination allows bacteria access to the cervix and uterus. Bacteria contaminating the uterus at mating usually result in failure of conception or early pregnancy loss, prior to 30 days gestation. Haematogenous spread of bacteria to the placenta is unusual but may occur in cases where the mare has been ill and had circulating bacteria in her bloodstream. Ideally, pregnancy monitoring should be planned prior to mating so that the mare is examined and any defects resulting in contamination of the vagina and cervix can be treated. This will help ensure a pregnancy is established and increase the chances of it being maintained. If the mare is already pregnant, regular monitoring is still helpful, especially for mares with a history of aborting. Monitoring, via regular rectal and abdominal ultrasound examinations can alert your veterinarian to increases in placental thickness, which reflect inflammation and infection, and foetal stress. If this occurs, especially in a mare with a history of abortion, appropriate treatment to help maintain the pregnancy can be instituted. Treatment involves a combination of antibiotic therapy, progesterone supplementation and depending on the severity of the problem, anti-inflammatories and a drug to increase placental blood flow can be added to the protocol. Unfortunately not all mares will be not able to carry a foal to term even with early and intensive treatment. Careful assessment of the mares breeding history and reproductive examination prior to mating allows an informed decision to be made whether and how best to breed the mare. Following this up with regu-

lar monitoring helps to identify developing problems so treatment can be planned and applied before the foetus is compromised.



Dr Ben Ledez

**“Monitoring, via regular rectal and abdominal ultrasound examinations can alert your veterinarian “**

**Our Equine Facility and Treatment rooms are modern and purposeful**



TOWNSVILLE VETERINARY CLINIC  
AND  
NORTH QUEENSLAND SPECIALIST EQUINE SERVICE



**HENDRA VACCINATION PROMOTION**



ZOETIS PTY LTD (FORMALLY PFIZER) IS PROMOTING MAY, JUNE AND JULY AS HENDRA VACCINATION MONTHS

**Hendra Vaccinations for May, June and July include Microchip & Second Vaccination \$200**

\*Conditions apply - \$200 must be paid in full at the time of the first vaccination - In clinic vaccinations only travel is not included.

Be sure to visit our website [townsvillevetclinic.com.au](http://townsvillevetclinic.com.au) for more information on your pet and the services provided by the Townsville Veterinary Clinic

**6 month Booster Vaccinations \$100**  
\*Travel is not included in price

Call our friendly staff to make an Appointment and discuss ongoing Vaccinations and they will be happy to answer any questions.

TOWNSVILLE VETERINARY CLINIC AND NORTH QUEENSLAND SPECIALIST EQUINE SERVICE

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## EQUINE- DENTAL FIDAYS

Townsville Vet Clinic have a special for Dental Fridays – 15% off all in clinic dentals.

Terms and conditions apply, please contact the clinic to book and enquire about conditions.



Visit our Website at;  
[www.townsvillevetclinic.com.au](http://www.townsvillevetclinic.com.au)



Townsville Vet Clinic has an informative and up to date Website, please visit and keep up to date with all the latest news happening within the clinic, new staff members, our monthly promotions, employment opportunities, new and advanced products and procedures, upcoming information evenings, Puppy Pre School class dates and times, our online Vet shop, information sheets, Photos, testimonials and anything and everything relating to your pets  
**Stay Informed!!!**

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR JUNE PROMOTIONS ON OUR WEBSITE, CHANNEL 7, FACEBOOK AND VIA EMAILS;

**"LOOKING AFTER OUR AGED PETS"**

Vet Shop Online;  
[www.townsvillevetclinic.com.au](http://www.townsvillevetclinic.com.au)



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## Staff Member Highlight- Tina TVC's Senior Equine Vet Nurse

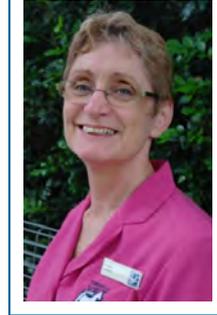
Tina is our Senior Equine Vet Nurse and the only Nurse at Townsville Vet Clinic that specializes in Equine. Tina commenced employment with TVC in 1991 and has studied and gained qualifications in Vet Nursing and specializing in Equine Nursing.

Tina has combined her studies and raising her own children over the past 22 years whilst she has been with Townsville Vet Clinic and she is a valued member of Townsville Vet Clinic's staff and will always have a caring and friendly greeting for our clients and patients.

At Townsville Vet Clinic we are very proud of our staff so when you next visit keep an eye out for one of Townsville Vet Clinic's most valuable assets and I am sure you will see one of those smiles.



**TVC Weight Loss Clinic  
Call us for Details**



**Dr Brad Dowling  
Equine Specialist**